

First information for pregnant/nursing students

1. Notification of pregnancy

The Technical University of Darmstadt would like to support you. Therefore, it is important that you communicate your pregnancy. A form is available for this purpose, which you should fill out together with your Office for Student Affairs. We ensure that disadvantages in studies and examinations are avoided as far as possible if a pregnancy is reported.

It is generally advisable to talk to the examiner in advance and to clarify possible individual solutions or alternative forms of examination. In any case, the triangle between you, the examination board and the examiner will strive to find a feasible solution that is as good as possible for all parties involved.

Pregnant students studying Teaching at Secondary Schools may contact the Centre for Teacher Education. The initial notification is created and forwarded there.

Subject-specific consultation and individual course planning, if applicable, are provided by the departments' Offices for Student Affairs.

In the case of practical school studies (practical phases at the school as a place of learning), it should be noted that the school administrators are obliged to instruct the students about infectious diseases (inquiry about existing rubella vaccination, etc.) and that they cannot complete their practical phase if they are not protected.

2. Risk assessment

Adjustments to your academic progress may be necessary for courses that pose health risks to you or your child. This applies, for example, to technical and scientific courses of study and associated activities in the laboratory, or to work with children in the context of practical phases.

The risk assessment is done in the Offices for Student Affairs. The **person responsible for teaching (lecturer)** may need to be consulted to clarify whether their course falls within the scope of § 1 (2) Sentence 2 No. 8 MuSchG, whether there are potential hazards (e.g. due to chemical hazardous substances, biological agents, physical harmful factors) for you and to what extent these can be reduced by taking suitable protective measures.

3. Waiver of your maternity protection rights

The Maternity Protection Act has taken into account the special situation of students and allows them to waive maternity protection in certain situations and, for example, to attend courses between 8:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. We rely on your personal responsibility here. You can obtain the waiver form and the appropriate consultation for this from the Office for Student Affairs.

4. Content and consequences of the waiver

If you expressly declare the waiver of your maternity protection rights to the Office for Student Affairs during the maternity protection period or nursing period, certain prohibitions do not apply (courses between 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. or on Sundays and public holidays). You can revoke this waiver at any time with effect for the future.

5. Compensation for disadvantages

Disadvantages in the course of studies due to pregnancy, childbirth or nursing should be avoided or compensated. In this respect, a consultation in the Office for Student Affairs will show you options for disadvantage compensation. Please keep in mind that replacement/disadvantage compensation refers only to the protection period.

6. Examinations

If pregnancy is indicated, the maternity protection periods must be observed. This applies immediately upon notification and generally for all examinations/events until the end of the maternity protection period. Up to this point, withdrawal from the examination is possible without any problems in case of proven pregnancy.

In the case of term papers, presentations, etc., the deadlines for submission are extended as far as this is possible due to the nature of the subject matter. Since it makes little sense, for example, to give a presentation after the end of the course, it may then be necessary to look for a substitute examination.

If, according to the regulations of the degree programme, no extension of the deadline is possible (e.g. architecture), the appeal to the maternity leave law has the same effect as a withdrawal.

In the case of the thesis, invoking maternity leave will result in a "work stop" (it is assumed that you will not work on the thesis during the maternity leave period) and an extension of the time frame by the maternity protection period (6/8 or 12 weeks). If maternity leave is waived (see 3.), the normal time frame applies.

You can also declare at any time that you wish to take part in an examination (see 3.). If you then "change your mind" again, revocation of this waiver is possible at any time.

7. Legal consequences of examination discontinuation

Since the declaration to waive your maternity protection rights can be revoked at any time in the future, this also has an influence on the assessment of an examination discontinuation.

A proven pregnancy is therefore to be considered a reason for withdrawal. In the case of such a justified withdrawal from the examination, the examination attempt will not be counted.

8. Nursing

If you wish to nurse your child during an examination, it is best to make this known to the examiner in advance so that an appropriate writing time extension can be arranged.

Generally, there is no extension for nursing periods during the thesis. Here, however, there is the possibility to apply for extensions of the deadline according to the general regulations (case-by-case decision).

Dissertations are not bound to specific deadlines. The general 5-year period for working on dissertations according to § 10 (5) PO/AT is extended by the maternity protection periods and the periods of parental leave according to § 15 BEEG.

9. Course attendance

There is no automatic notification of pregnancy to faculty. The information provided to lecturers depends on the risk assessment. However, you should inform the lecturers about your pregnancy yourself (see 2.).

If, in exceptional cases, attendance is compulsory in a course, an alternative offering should be provided as far as possible. Please contact your Office for Student Affairs for this purpose.

10. Special examination date

According to § 19 I APB, a special examination date can be requested from the examination board.

11. Leave of absence

Pregnancy is a reason for leave of absence according to § 8 I No. 4 HImmaVO. Despite a leave of absence, examination results can be achieved by way of exception. Please contact your Office for Student Affairs for this as well.

Contact person:

For all questions regarding your studies, please contact your Office for Student Affairs.

For questions regarding leave of absence, you may contact Directorate II, Student Service (Karo 5). Karo 5, Counter 2, Karolinenplatz 5;

https://www.tu-darmstadt.de/studieren/studieren_von_a_bis_z/artikel_details_de_en_41792.en.jsp,
studierendenservice@tu-darmstadt.de

You can get advice on the subject of studying with a child from Directorate II:

https://www.teilzeitstudium.tu-darmstadt.de/studieren_mit_kind_1/studieren_mit_kind_3/index.en.jsp

For questions regarding the risk assessment and the notification process to the regional administrative council, contact Unit IV A - Occupational health and safety

https://www.intern.tu-darmstadt.de/verwaltung/dez_iv/referate_und_stabsstellen/artikel_details_de_en_229824.en.jsp