

Maternity leave for students at the University of Bayreuth

Since 2018 the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG) has also applied to pregnant and/or breastfeeding students insofar as the place, time and procedure of a university event are mandatory or the students complete an internship as part of their university education (§ 1 Abs. 2 Nr. 8 MuSchG).

A student or woman within the meaning of the Maternity Protection Act is any person who is pregnant, has given birth to a child or is breastfeeding, regardless of the gender stated in their birth entry.

Maternity leave is special protection for students who are pregnant or breastfeeding a child and is granted without an application. It is intended to counteract disadvantages during pregnancy, after childbirth and while breastfeeding.

Maternity protection starts with the **diagnosis of pregnancy**. However, the health of pregnant students (and their child/children) can only be protected if they inform the University of Bayreuth about the pregnancy or breastfeeding period. It is therefore in your own interest to notify the **maternity protection office for students** at the University of Bayreuth by presenting your maternity pass and at the same time **informing your lecturers**.

The maternity protection office for students calculates the maternity protection period based on the expected date of childbirth and informs you and the supervisory authority of this. The lecturers will carry out a risk assessment, which the University of Bayreuth is obliged to do.

Maternity leave usually starts 6 weeks before and ends 8 weeks after the birth. The protection period after childbirth is extended to twelve weeks in the case of premature births, multiple births or if the child is diagnosed by a doctor as having a disability within eight weeks of childbirth.

In the event of a medical ban on employment, the maternity leave office for students and the degree program must be informed immediately, as well as in the event of a miscarriage and if the expected date of childbirth is corrected.

The maternity protection office for students must be **informed of the birth** by a copy of the birth certificate in order to adjust the end of the maternity protection period to the actual date of birth.

During the statutory maternity protection period, there is a **relative ban on examinations**. Pregnant and/or breastfeeding students therefore do not have to take part in examinations. This also applies to courses, internships and excursions. However, exams can be taken during the protection period if the waiver of maternity protection is declared. The declaration of waiver must be presented to the respective examiner on the day of the examination. Even during the exam, the student can make use of the maternity leave and withdraw from it at any time - the exam is then considered "not started".

Leave of absence (semester of leave) due to maternity leave and/or parental leave can be taken semester by semester and without a deadline until the child is three years old. The advantage is that a semester off does not count and you can - as in maternity leave - take exams of your choice but do not have to. However, caution is advised when receiving BAFÖG or a scholarship, because this is usually not paid during the vacation semester. And please also ask your health insurance company whether there will be any changes.

You can apply for a leave of absence **directly at the student administration office**.

Contact:

Universität Bayreuth, Abt. I, Maternity Protection Office for students
Tel. 0921/55-2168, E-Mail: Mutterschutz.Stud@uni-bayreuth.de