Circular 77/2020

Support for doctoral students, research assistants, lecturers and assistant professors during the corona pandemic

Dear Sir or Madam,

In this Circular we are announcing two important changes following discussions of matters including an initiative of the State Rectors’ Conference.

Extensions of the fixed-term civil service employment contracts of lecturers, senior lecturers (Akademische (Ober)Räte*innen) and assistant professors

In view of the challenging situation created by the coronavirus epidemic, the universities of our state have vigorously backed proposed legislation to allow changing of the ending dates of the fixed-term civil service employment contracts of lecturers, senior lecturers and assistant professors. The legal basis for doing so has since been created via the “Act Amending the Act Establishing ‘The University Admissions Foundation’ and Other Higher Education Laws”. The existing provisions applicable for research associates are now to apply to lecturers, senior lecturers and assistant professors with fixed-term civil service employment contracts in place between the dates March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020, which can be extended by a further period of six months beyond the respective maximum total fixed-term civil service contract duration. In addition to the contract extension, assistant professors can also postpone the dates of their respective interim or final evaluations. Specifically, this means

- that assistant professors in their first three-year period who were employed by the University of Bonn under a fixed-term civil service contract between March 1st and September 30th and remain thus employed can postpone their interim evaluation by six months.
- that assistant professors in their second three-year period who were employed by the University of Bonn between March 1st and September 30th under a fixed-term civil service contract and remain thus employed can postpone the date of their final evaluation.
The respective faculty must internally coordinate the evaluation process steps for which it is responsible promptly in advance. The corresponding application for extension of non-permanent civil service employment contract can be submitted to the Human Resources division. For questions regarding assistant professors contact Ms. Böbel of Section 3.1 (boebel@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de, extension 73-5169), and regarding lecturers and senior lecturers please contact Mr. Hömberg of Section 3.2 (hoemberg@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de, extension 73-5711).

Transition clause of the German Law on Temporary Employment in Higher Education (WissZeitVG)

The previously existing transition clause of the German Law on Temporary Employment in Higher Education (WissZeitVG) applicable to research associate employment contracts in place between the dates March 1, 2020 and September 30, 2020 was extended by a further six (6) months, i.e. contracts can be extended by up to 12 months beyond the regular maximum total fixed-term contract duration. For employment contracts with start dates between October 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, the total fixed-term contract duration of six years is extended by a period of six months. Further information is available from the Human Resources Division. https://www.intranet.uni-bonn.de/organisation/verwaltung/dez-3

There is no comparable arrangement at this time for holders of non-permanent civil servant positions. We will inform you in a timely manner of any changes occurring in this regard.

The regulations of the respective funding approval authorities govern contract extensions for project staff of third-party funded projects. An online overview is available at: https://www.uni-bonn.de/forschung/forschungsdezernat/7.2-drittemittelervice-projektmanagement/corona-information-der-bewilligungsbehoerden. For questions please contact Ralf Lohse of Section 7.2 (lohse@verwaltung.uni-bonn.de, extension 73-7286).

Package of measures in support of academic parents

We wish to expressly advise you of a package of supplemental measures adopted by the University to support academics and students who are facing additional childcare challenges during the coronavirus epidemic entitled Holding Your Course. Such challenges include, for example, the completion phase of a doctorate or Habilitation, an evaluation as part of an assistant professorship, having to switch to digital teaching, increased pressure due to extended internships) while having to care for at least one child of up to 12 years of age.

Sincerely,

signed Professor Dr. Dr. h. c. Michael Hoch
Rector

signed Holger Gottschalk
Provost