Sent by e-mail
to all students
at the University of Bayreuth

Video conferencing tools at the University of Bayreuth: Microsoft Teams & Zoom

Dear Students,

Over the last few semesters, you have become well-acquainted with the video conferencing tools Microsoft Teams and Zoom. A new licence for Zoom was promptly purchased for all campus members at the time. Thus, in times of pandemic, we have succeeded in providing you with quick and uncomplicated options for the sharing of ideas and experience as the basis for collaborative work and networking, even after lectures.

Since the crest of the Omicron wave seems to have passed and we are preparing with great confidence for a summer semester characterized by diverse forms of communication and in-person encounter, we wish to hereby inform you that the Pro-Zoom licence for all members of campus will expire on 31.03.22 and will not be renewed.

To prevent misunderstandings, we wish to stress that there will still be the possibility of using Zoom in teaching, even if face-to-face lectures will be the norm in the 2022 summer semester - i.e. you will still be able to participate in Zoom classes set up by your lecturers without restriction. However, you will no longer be able to host an unlimited Zoom session in terms of time and number of participants. Of course, it will still be possible to use Basic-Zoom licence-free for hosting your own meetings with a maximum of 100 people and a maximum duration of 40 minutes.

If you still wish to set up your own video conferences in order to conduct your learning groups virtually, regardless of location, and organise joint work with several other people, the use of Microsoft Teams remains available to you for this purpose.
Its video conferencing functionalities are comparable with Zoom, Teams offering a wide range of options for collaboration. For all those who have worked exclusively with Zoom up to now and will be switching to Microsoft Teams, the IT Service Centre offers the following services at https://www.its.uni-bayreuth.de/de/digitale-lehre/teams-zoom-faq/index.html, an FAQ page, and would be happy to answer any questions on the transition at: zoom@uni-bayreuth.de and teams@uni-bayreuth.de.

In this way, it will be possible to combine the best of both worlds in the future: meeting personally on site in Bayreuth or Kulmbach, and the possibilities of collaboration and coordination online, many of which we have learned to appreciate over recent semesters.

Please feel free to make flexible and individualized use of the diverse in-person and virtual communication options available, and put together the mix that suits you best.

Yours faithfully,

Prof. Dr. Stefan Leible
President

Prof. Dr. Susanne Tittlbach
Vice-President for Digitalization,
Innovation and Sustainability

Prof. Dr. Torsten Eymann
CIO