

## **FAQ (last updated: April 16, 2021)**

### **What is the current state of the pandemic in Germany/Heidelberg?**

Germany is currently going through a “third wave” of infections. The main measure affecting the severity of restrictions is the “7-Tage-Inzidenzwert” (number of new infections per week per 100 000 inhabitants). The critical threshold is 100, i.e., areas with an Inzidenzwert above 100 see stricter lockdown measures than areas under 100. Heidelberg has been between 50 and 75 in recent weeks, but the national average is currently ca. 150. To stay informed on the situation, please consult the following websites:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/478220a4c454480e823b17327b2bf1d4>

(Dashboard of the Robert-Koch-Institut, the equivalent of the CDC)

[https://www.heidelberg.de/hd/coronavirus\\_+die+lage+in+heidelberg.html](https://www.heidelberg.de/hd/coronavirus_+die+lage+in+heidelberg.html)

(Information about the situation and rules currently in place in Heidelberg)

### **What is the state of the vaccination campaign?**

Germany (and the entire European Union) is ca. 6-8 weeks behind the U.S. vaccination campaign. So far, 18,5% of the population have received at least one shot and 6,5% have received both. With the start of the second quarter in April, the pace has increased to ca. 650 000 vaccinations per day. At this pace, it is expected that every willing resident over the age of 16 will have gotten fully vaccinated by September.

<https://impfdashboard.de/>

(German government’s vaccination dashboard)

### **Do I have to be vaccinated before coming to Germany?**

The answer is no, but this could change between now and the end of August when our Fall semester begins. We strongly encourage AJY participants to get vaccinated as soon as they get the opportunity. It is clear that people who can demonstrate that they are vaccinated against the Corona virus will soon face fewer restrictions than those who cannot.

### **Can I get vaccinated in Germany as an AJY student?**

Yes. As an AJY participant, you are a resident of Heidelberg and have full medical coverage. You would therefore be eligible to receive the vaccine in Germany. This would especially be relevant in case frequent booster shots are necessary.

### **Do travel restrictions prevent AJY students from coming to Germany?**

No, students who study in Germany for a full semester or full year are not affected by travel restrictions. Only short-term programs (such as our 6-week summer program) are currently affected. Therefore, we have converted and will run our summer program virtually.

### **What are the quarantine rules upon arriving in Germany?**

At this time, students register with the local health department prior to arrival and must quarantine for 5 days (after which they can end quarantine with a negative test result). University dorms feature single rooms in shared apartments and are therefore cleared for quarantine. Should quarantine rules still be in effect in late August – and quite possibly they will not be, at least not for vaccinated students – we will again conduct a virtual orientation week and supply students with groceries.

### **Are classes virtual or in person?**

At the AJY center, we were able to offer in person instruction in the Fall and the Spring for the 4-week intensive pre-semester German course and are confident we can do so again in September.

All German universities have been running in virtual mode since Spring of 2020 and are currently still conducting their *Sommersemester* 2021 fully online. Given the vaccination schedule, it is very reasonable to assume that we will see a return to in person instruction in October for the start of the *Wintersemester* 2021-2022. Large lecture formats may still be taught virtually, but AJY students are typically enrolled in smaller seminars.