

Leaflet on the Maternity Protection Act (MuSchG)

Information on maternity protection during studies (Maternity Protection Act)

From 01.01.2018, the amended Maternity Protection Act will also come into force for **female students**. The place, time and procedure of a training event are mandatory or they are required to complete an internship as part of their university education.

§ 1 para. 2 no. 8 MuSchG

Notification of pregnancy and breastfeeding

In order to be able to make use of the rights according to the Maternity Protection Act and so that pregnant / breastfeeding students are not exposed to dangerous conditions during internships, laboratory, or other activities, it is important that the university is informed as early as possible about the pregnancy or breastfeeding period. Students at the Schneidershof campus and at the Design Campus in Trier should contact the Student Services in Trier; students at the Environmental Campus Birkenfeld and at the Idar-Oberstein campus should contact the relevant Examination Office.

However, there is no obligation to register in any of these cases. Please note, however, that Trier University of Applied Sciences cannot grant you your rights under the MuSchG without such notification and cannot grant you any special regulations in the examination rights relationship in this case due to lack of knowledge.

The pregnancy and the expected date of delivery must be proven to the competent office (see above). For example, a medical certificate, the certificate of a midwife, or a copy of the maternity passport are considered as **proof** (costs for this cannot usually be reimbursed). The protection periods before and after childbirth are calculated on the basis of the expected date of delivery.

Data protection is guaranteed in accordance with the applicable regulations.

§ 15 paras. 1 and 2 MuSchG

Protection periods and service provision within the protection periods

Special regulations apply during the maternity protection periods before and after childbirth. The maternity protection period begins **six weeks before the expected delivery**. In the event of earlier or later childbirth, the period shall be shortened or extended accordingly. After childbirth, the protection period is eight weeks; in the case of premature or multiple births, this period is extended to twelve weeks. If the child is diagnosed with a disability within the eight weeks after delivery, the protection period is also extended to 12 weeks at the mother's request. In the event of childbirth before the expected date of delivery, the period of protection after the birth is extended by the time period that could not be taken up before the delivery. The maternity protection period is calculated by the above mentioned competent office and communicated to the student.

During the protection periods, female students are exempt from the obligation to participate in events and examinations. However, female students must expressly request.

As a rule, this declaration is made to the responsible counselling office, (e.g. the examination office).

The declaration made can be revoked at any time. If an examination that has been taken is abandoned, an application for withdrawal with reasons and a medical certificate as proof must be submitted so that, if necessary, a withdrawal with a recognized reason can be approved.

For more detailed information on the special regulations for pregnancy and breastfeeding, please contact your responsible examination office, where you will be informed in detail.

§ 3 paras. 1, 2 and 3 MuSchG

Restrictions on attendance times within the degree programme

Pregnant / breastfeeding students may:

- Not carry out any activities (e.g. courses) between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. as part of higher education. However, if the student is willing, the extension until 10 p.m. can be made by means of an explicit declaration, in which case attendance is deemed to be a declaration. This declaration can be revoked by the student at any time with effect for the future.

§ 5 para. 2 MuSchG

- Do not work/study on Sundays and public holidays (concerns e.g. weekend seminars). However, if the student is willing and expressly declares this by attending the event on her own responsibility, participation is permitted. This declaration can be revoked by the student at any time with effect for the future.

§ 6 para. 2 MuSchG

- Do not fall below the uninterrupted rest period of 11 hours between two working or study days. As attendance is not usually compulsory for courses, this is the sole responsibility of the student.

§ 4 para. 2 MuSchG

- Do not carry out activities exceeding 8.5 hours per day or 90 hours in the double week within the higher education training. As it is not possible for the university to monitor these times, this is the sole responsibility of the student.

§ 4 para. 1 MuSchG

Compensation for disadvantages and time off for examinations or breastfeeding

Pregnant and breastfeeding students are entitled to compensation for disadvantages. This includes, for example, the provision of substitute lines during internships or the granting of breastfeeding breaks during examinations or events with compulsory attendance, if there would be an irresponsible risk to mother and child if they were to participate.

§§ 1, 9 para. 1 MuSchG

Female students are exempted from carrying out mandatory examinations on pregnancy and maternity. As attendance is not usually compulsory for courses, the following applies and examinations are time-limited, however, the university assumes that these examinations can be scheduled outside of these times.

During the first 12 months after birth, breastfeeding women may take at least half an hour twice a day or one hour once a day. For days with a study time of more than 8 hours, twice 45 minutes or once 90 minutes apply accordingly.

Information on appropriate rooms can be obtained from the relevant office (Student Services, Examinations Office, Equal Opportunities Office).

§ Section 7 (1) and (2) MuSchG

Other protection and risk assessment

During pregnancy and breastfeeding, female students are not allowed to work with hazardous substances or under influences that are harmful to the health of mother and child.

For pregnant/breastfeeding mothers, the risk assessment serves to determine possible health impairments. On this basis, it is determined whether special protective measures or compensation for disadvantages resulting from the pregnancy/breastfeeding period are necessary. If the risk assessment shows that there are hazards, the pregnant/breastfeeding woman will be informed individually about the protective measures or possible employment prohibitions (e.g. in the chemical laboratory) or possible compensation (disadvantage compensation). Please contact the examination office responsible for you.

§§ 9 - 13 MuSchG

Duty to inform

Every reported pregnancy of a student as well as breastfeeding activity must be reported by Trier University of Applied Sciences to the responsible supervisory authority. The supervisory authority must be provided with all the necessary data and documents in accordance with § 27 MuSchG,

§ 27 MuSchG

Trier University of Applied Sciences must inform female students about their rights under the Maternity Protection Act. This is done by the specific offices depending on the location. The faculties also repeatedly point out the protection rights before and after the birth of a child, e.g. in the context

of counselling, at events (e.g. introductory events) and especially before potentially dangerous activities (laboratories, workshops, internships).

§ 10 para. 2, § 26 MuSchG

Leave of absence

Leave of absence is possible during pregnancy and for child-rearing periods. This is a possible protective measure if there would be an irresponsible risk to the mother and child if the studies were continued, but it can also be used as a leave of absence for the upbringing/care of the child. During a leave of absence, the student status is maintained, but the subject semesters are not counted. During a leave of absence, the student is exempt from all attendance obligations for courses and examinations. For further information, please contact the relevant Student Services or Examination Office.

Contact and advice

- Equal Opportunities Office Trier University of Applied Sciences:
<https://www.hochschuletrier.de/index.php?id=16347>
- Equal Opportunities Office Environmental Campus Birkenfeld:
<https://www.umweltcampus.de/ucb/index.php?id=gsb>
- Student Services Trier University of Applied Sciences:
<https://www.hochschule-trier.de/index.php?id=16342>
- Examination Office Environmental Campus Birkenfeld:
<https://www.umwelt-campus.de/ucb/index.php?id=11005>
- Secretariat in Idar-Oberstein:
<https://www.hochschule-trier.de/index.php?id=649>