

Info Sheet: Travelling to Schmalkalden During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The winter semester 2020/2021 is going to be another extraordinary semester. Students will have many questions, and while we cannot answer all of them, one thing is certain: Schmalkalden University of Applied Sciences (SUAS) will do everything possible to ensure a pleasant study atmosphere as well as a high standard of teaching, whether on campus or online. But more importantly the university will take appropriate measures to ensure that all members of SUAS remain healthy. This info sheet is developed in cooperation with the local health office to provide you with important details concerning implications on your upcoming study semester in Schmalkalden. The info sheet includes mainly (a) health regulations for incoming students and (b) current regulations at SUAS. Additionally, we are going to provide you with (c) all necessary contact details. This Info Sheet will be updated weekly and published on our website. This version is as of 11/09/20.

(a) Health Regulations for Incoming Students

Germany is a Federal Republic. This means that the country is subdivided into several federal states ("Bundesländer") which, in turn, are subdivided into several districts ("Landkreise") or cities with district status ("kreisfreie Städte"). There are 16 federal states in Germany; Schmalkalden is situated in the Free State of Thuringia. Each of those administrative regions (Republic, state, district) has individual functions and responsibilities. With regard to the current pandemic, the Federal Republic has passed many (though not all) powers to the states, and within the states, the several districts might have individual regulations in place. This means, you are required to follow federal, regional and local regulations.

The complete Corona regulations currently applicable for the Schmalkalden-Meiningen district and all updates can be found (in German language) [here](#). You are personally obliged to track any changes on those regulations – we may guide you but the responsibility for the steps taken is solely yours. The regulations listed on the website determine clear rules on what people arriving from abroad must observe when entering the country. Furthermore, the regulations passed by the district include rules on distance, hygiene and behaviour in public places. For example, people should keep at least 1.5 metres distance to those surrounding them, wear a mouth-nose cover in enclosed spaces, such as stores or public transportation vehicles, and mind proper hygiene rules, e.g. sneeze into the inside of one's elbow.

Concerning your individual arrival situation, the main filter is the risk area definition of the German Robert Koch Institute. Whether or not you have been to a risk area is decisive for the steps to be taken by yourself in order to enter the country and travel to Germany: The list of Corona risk areas defined by the Robert Koch Institute can be found [here](#). It can be updated or changed at any time. The list includes countries from which many of our incoming students are coming, like Brazil, India or Turkey. Generally, people who have not been in a risk area defined by the Robert Koch Institute within 14 days prior to their arrival in Germany may enter Schmalkalden without any restrictions. On the contrary, people who have been in such a risk area during the last 14 days must undergo a 14-day quarantine immediately after arrival, unless they receive a negative Corona test result being approved by the local health office. The test can either be carried out within 48 hours prior to the arrival in Germany or within 72 hours after arrival.

The flow chart on the following page should make it easier for you to complete the steps associated with your personal situation and journey in time and in full. Assuming that you adjust to this in the best possible way and follow changes regularly, the associated steps will hardly affect your stay – conversely, complications can arise if you do not know or follow the regulations.

Prevention Before Departure

Covid-19 is on the rise all over the world. Together with the local Health Office, we would therefore like to ask you to behave in such a way before entering Germany and travelling to Schmalkalden that you avoid the risk of carrying the infection. This includes taking preventive measures – such as social distancing – even before departure.

Have not Been to Risk Area

The list of Corona risk areas defined by the Robert Koch Institute is available online and it can be updated or changed at any time. If you have not been to a risk area defined by the Robert Koch Institute within 14 days prior to your arrival in Germany, you may travel to Schmalkalden without any health restrictions and obligations.

Have Been to Risk Area

The list of Corona risk areas defined by the Robert Koch Institute is available online and it can be updated or changed at any time. If you have been to a risk area defined by the Robert Koch Institute within 14 days prior to your arrival in Germany, you are obliged to follow further steps.

Test prior to Arrival to Germany

It is possible to avoid or shorten isolation by testing for Covid-19 at your own expense within 48 hours before entering Germany. Please note: The test must be carried out in one of the countries listed by the Robert Koch Institute and the result must be available in German or English. It must be a PCR test. Further information can be found here: [rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Tests.html](https://www.rki.de/DE/Content/InfAZ/N/Neuartiges_Coronavirus/Tests.html)

Test after Arrival to Germany

It is possible to shorten a self-isolation by testing for Covid-19 at your own expense within 72 hours after entering Germany. This is possible at almost all German airports, at many train stations and also in Schmalkalden (Medical Emergency Service: +49 116117).

No Test: Quarantine

Take the shortest route to Schmalkalden and stay in domestic quarantine until the end of the 14th day after your arrival. Important: Report your quarantine to the local health office (hygiene@lra-sm.de). Attach a PDF scan of your passport and provide information on the risk area, your address in Germany, your mobile phone number and the date of entry. The local Health Office will pass on your data to the local public order office, which will check that the quarantine is being maintained. Violations are subject to heavy fines. Please note: If you choose this option, you may miss events at the university. If you develop symptoms during the quarantine, call the Medical Emergency Service: +49 116117.

Positive Test Result

We recommend you to postpone your journey. Please inform the university about your non-arrival at this time: io@hs-schmalkalden.de

Preliminary Quarantine

Take the shortest route to Schmalkalden and stay in domestic quarantine until:

Negative Test Result

Please immediately send a PDF scan of your test result to the local Health Office (hygiene@lra-sm.de). Attach a PDF scan of your passport and provide information on the risk area, your address in Germany, your mobile phone number and the date of entry.

Positive Test Result

Inform the local health office immediately under +49 3693 485 8744 and avoid contact with other people.

Preliminary Quarantine

Take the shortest route to Schmalkalden and stay in domestic quarantine until the local Health Office has informed you in written form that the quarantine will be lifted on the basis of the test results you provided before. This usually does not take long.

Negative Test Result

The health authorities are usually informed about test results. However, to be truly sure, please send a PDF scan of your test result to the local Health Office (hygiene@lra-sm.de) immediately. Attach a PDF scan of your passport and provide information on the risk area, your address in Germany, your mobile phone number and the date of entry. Remain in domestic quarantine until the local health office has informed you in written form that the quarantine will be lifted on the basis of the test result you have received.

(b) Corona Regulations at SUAS

In addition to the federal and district Corona regulations, the university has introduced special Corona regulations that all members of SUAS are required to follow. The university informs about current rules on a regular basis via the university website: <https://www.hs-schmalkalden.de/de/service/faq-zum-corona-virus.html>. Two documents are especially relevant: the hygiene concept and the Corona regulations. Make sure that you follow any changes and fully understand the regulations listed.

(c) Contact Data

(i) Medical Emergency Service

If you are in Schmalkalden and have symptoms like fever, a sore throat, breathing difficulties or a loss of taste, call the Medical Emergency Service under 116117. They are going to advise you about the next steps. Do not go to a doctor or the hospital, and strictly avoid any contact to other people.

(ii) Health Office

If you have had contact to a person who has been proven Corona-positive or have questions on your quarantine status, please call the Schmalkalden-Meiningen Health Office at +49 3693 4858736. The health experts are going to inform you about further actions.

(iii) University

You can address questions regarding the coronavirus to the SUAS Corona Infoline via corona-infoline@hs-schmalkalden.de or from Monday to Friday, 9:00 to 12:00, at +49 3683 688 9999.