

# Guidelines for the Refund of Semester Ticket Fees in Cases of Hardship

## § 1 - Principles

Students who, through no fault of their own, find themselves in a financial hardship in the summer semester 2020 and winter semester 2020/21 due to the COVID-19 pandemic, may apply to have their semester ticket fee refunded.

## § 2 - Eligible applicants

Eligible to apply in the sense of §1 are exclusively duly enrolled students in need of the following universities:

- University of Bremen
- Bremen University of Applied Sciences
- Bremerhaven University of Applied Sciences
- Bremen University of the Arts

## § 3 Need

(1) From funds of the Senator for Science and Ports and the Senator for Climate Protection, Environment, Mobility, Urban Development and Housing, contributions for the semester ticket can be reimbursed upon application.

(2) A registered student in need according to §1 is one who:

1. in the relevant semester has an income below the current BAföG maximum limit. This limit is increased by 105 euros per month if the person is independently insured and by 175 euros for the first biological child raised in the student's own household and by 85 euros for each additional child.

In the case of a change in income within the semester, by which students with an approved hardship application exceed the income limit in the semester average, this must be reported to the AStA. In this case, the cost of the semester ticket must be refunded to the AStA.

2. or is caring for severely disabled children in his/her own household or relatives in need of care in the joint household for at least three months in the semester in question.

Appropriate evidence must be submitted with the application; only complete applications will be processed.

(3) Benefits are provided within the limits of the available funds. There is no legal entitlement to a waiver of contributions for the semester ticket.

(4) The following provisions apply to the awarding of funds.

## § 4 - Terms of Refund

(1) The funds shall be allocated according to the available funds without any existing legal claim.

(2) The income situation must be plausibly presented and must be verifiable.

(3) Existing assets that can be used to finance the semester ticket can exclude the neediness.

(4) A commission of three persons elected by the Student Council has access to all approved applications as a control authority.

### **§ 5 - Scope of Services**

(1) The reimbursement amount consists of the amounts for the VBN semester ticket and the Lower Saxony/Bremen statewide semester ticket as specified in the student body's contribution regulations.

### **§ 6 - Application**

(1) The hardship application for payment of the semester ticket costs must be submitted in writing and signed.

(2) The following documents must be enclosed with the application:

- a. Proof of income for the last three months  
(e.g. salary slips, employment contracts, bank statements, etc.).
- b. Declaration of financial situation
- c. Current certificate of enrollment
- d. Copy of the semester ticket

### **§ 7 - Repayment**

The AStA must be notified of any positive change in income within the semester that subsequently results in the hardship application not being approved. In this case, the cost of the semester ticket must be refunded to the AStA.

Likewise, false information that led to the approval of a hardship application will result in an immediate refund to the AStA.

### **§ 8 - Entry into force**

This guideline will come into force on 01.12.2020.

The Senator for Science and Ports  
Bremen, 01.12. 2020

i.A. Kay Wenzel