

Information on maternity protection, pregnancy and breastfeeding period during your studies

With effect from January 1, 2018, the *Mutterschutzgesetz (MuSchG)*¹ also applies to students, insofar as place, time and structure of the course or degree program component is dictated by the University or in case the student completes a required internship.

The rights of the *MuSchG* shall apply automatically and are not dependent on whether the expectant mother notifies the university of the pregnancy or not. However, many rights can only be guaranteed if the university is notified of the pregnancy.

Notification of pregnancy and breastfeeding period, Section 15 para. 1 *MuSchG*

The student shall notify the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt of her pregnancy including the estimated due date as soon as she knows that she is pregnant. This is an incidental (voluntary) obligation (*Obliegenheit*²), which means that the student is not legally obliged to notify of her pregnancy. The notification of pregnancy must be sent to the Student Office (*Studierendenbüro*). To this end, the student shall use the form provided for that purpose. The student shall also notify her lecturers accordingly.

If a student is working for the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in addition to her studies (e.g. as a student assistant), she shall also notify the HR department of her pregnancy.

Proof of pregnancy, Section 15 para. 2 *MuSchG*

When notifying the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt of her pregnancy, the student must provide proof of her pregnancy. This can either be done by presenting a medical certificate or a certificate issued by the midwife (copy of the *Mutterpass* (maternity record booklet)). The estimated due date must be stated.

Protection periods, Section 3 *MuSchG*

The protection period starts six weeks before the estimated due date. If the actual day of childbirth deviates from the estimated due date, the protection period shall be extended or shortened accordingly.

The protection period after childbirth is eight weeks or twelve weeks in case of multiple birth or premature birth. Furthermore, the protection period in case of premature birth shall also be extended by the time which could not be used up before childbirth.

The protection period will be calculated by the Student Office as soon as the student has notified the university of the estimated due date and will be communicated to the student.

¹ *Mutterschutzgesetz (MuSchG)* is the German maternity protection act regulating the protection of mothers at work, in training and during their studies.

² '*Obliegenheit*' is a special obligation under German law, which the individual fulfills in her own interest and the non-fulfillment of which may be of detriment but will not expose individuals to liability directly.

Waiver of maternity protection periods, Section 3 para. 3, 4 Section 5 para. 2, Section 6 para. 2 *MuSchG*

If the student waives her entitlement to the protection periods, she can continue to pursue her studies during the maternity protection period and also take examinations and attend courses after 8 p.m. and/or on Sundays and public holidays.

The waiver must be communicated to the Examinations Office. The waiver may be revoked at any time, however, only with effect for the future (at the earliest starting from receipt of the revocation by the Examinations Office).

If the student does not declare her waiver but still takes part in an examination or corresponding courses or assessments, her participation is deemed to be an implied declaration of waiver. The participation in the examination is valid. In this case, the student will not be able to claim entitlement to her protection period, as this would create an improper advantage because this would provide the student with an additional attempt to take the examination.

Risk assessment, Sections 9, 10 *MuSchG*

The Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt is obliged to carry out a risk assessment together with the student. The implementation of the risk assessment shall be the responsibility of the respective faculty manager and/or dean in collaboration with the Safety Officer of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. In the context of such risk assessment, it shall be investigated and determined whether the course of study creates a situation which poses a potential health risk to the pregnant student or the unborn child. If this is the case, the university shall take appropriate measures in order to eliminate the risk situation. If no appropriate measures for eliminating the risk are available, it is not possible for the student to waive the protection period.

If a student is working for the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt in addition to her studies (e.g. as student assistant), a separate risk assessment must be completed with regard to the risks and hazards arising in connection with her workplace and scope of tasks. The Safety Officer of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt is the responsible contact person in this respect.

Adjustments to compensate for disabilities/impairments, Sections 1 para. 1, 9 *MuSchG*

The student must not be adversely affected by the pregnancy and parental leave. For example, the student shall be entitled to take breaks from examinations, assessments or courses with required attendance in order to breastfeed her child or she must be given the possibility to complete other coursework components in compensation for an internship. The respective lecturers shall be notified in due time in order to ensure enough time for planning and organization.

Notification to supervisory authority, Section 27 *MuSchG*

As soon as a student of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt notifies the university of her pregnancy, the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt must notify this to the responsible supervisory authority without undue delay. The responsible supervisory authority for the KU is the *Gewerbeaufsichtsamt* in Munich. The Safety Officer is responsible for notifying the supervisory authority.

The supervisory authority must also be notified in cases when a student submits a notification that she breastfeeds. This notification, however, is not necessary if the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt had previously already notified the supervisory authority of the pregnancy of the same student.

Leave for medical examinations, Section 7 para. 1 *MuSchG*

A pregnant student must be granted leave for medical examinations in connection with her pregnancy.

Leave for breastfeeding, Section 7 para. 2 *MuSchG*

During the first twelve months after childbirth, the mother has the right to breastfeed her child at least two times a day for half an hour.

Rooms and facilities

There is a family room in the Main Library building which offers the possibility to feed or change your child or just have a rest. Further nappy-changing facilities are available in the Aula library, the canteen, the Main Building E, in the Center for Marriage and Family in Society (ZFG) and in the Kapuzinerkloster.

On the Ingolstadt campus, there is a changing facility in the first-aid room.

Contact and advice

[Student Office](#)

[Student Advisory Service](#)

[Examinations Office](#)

[Safety Officer](#)

[Center for Marriage and Family in Society \(ZFG\)](#)