



Universität zu Köln • Abt. 43 • Albertus-Magnus-Platz • 50923 Köln

To the members of the management board
of the Albertus Magnus Center
and to the coordinators of the faculty-wide
graduate schools



Universität zu Köln

Albertus Magnus Center
for Early Career Researchers

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Andreas Speer

Wissenschaftliche Leitung
Acting Scientific Director

Telefon +49 221 470-2309
andreas.speer@uni-koeln.de
www.amc.uni-koeln.de

Dear members of the AMC Board of Directors,
Dear coordinators of the faculty-wide graduate schools,

We - the scientific and operational management of the Albertus Magnus Center (AMC) - contact you today, as the University of Cologne and its graduate schools, especially also our doctoral candidates and postdocs, face special challenges due to the current spread of the corona virus (Covid19).

The AMC would like to support you in meeting the responsibility for your doctoral candidates. We are aware that some of the graduate schools of our faculties also supervise postdocs, who we also want to take into account here.

We propose the following measures:

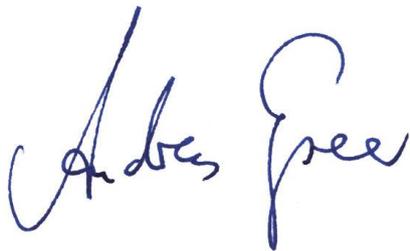
1. Please, ask the supervisors of doctoral candidates in graduate schools and doctoral programs of your faculties to mediate work situations according to the actual situation (e.g. spatial working conditions, new processes of virtual collaboration, health aspects) to their qualifying candidates. You can find the current UoC guidelines here: <https://portal.uni-koeln.de/coronavirus>.
2. Please, inform the qualifying candidates in the doctoral programs of your faculties about the current situation and please encourage them to contact you, the graduate schools or the Albertus Magnus Center (www.amc.uni-koeln.de) in case of uncertainties about their current working conditions.
3. Due to the changed and largely virtual work situation, all of us face new challenges, including the cooperation in the digital space. On the homepage of the AMC you can find useful hints and links on the topic "Work and Lead in the Home Office" or "Healthy in a Changed Everyday Working Life".

However, not always does the respective research project allow for digital work. This applies, for example, to work in the laboratory or in the archive. Here, creative and individual solutions must be found.

Please, exchange information among yourselves regarding the measures of the graduate schools of the faculties. To our knowledge, the graduate schools of the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Arts and Humanities has already taken important steps here. Please, keep us informed about the steps you have taken.

At this moment, it is particularly important to get in touch with the doctoral candidates and the postdoctoral fellows, and to provide them with the support they need: factual information concerning the dissertation or the research, but also psychologically. It is not always easy to focus on scientific work in the current situation. Our junior researchers should know that the employees and staff of the graduate schools and the AMC are reliably accessible and that we all make every effort to achieve the best possible support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Andreas Speer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long, sweeping underline.

Prof. Dr. Andreas Speer