



INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
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Inclusion in higher education in the digital era: 2 thesis

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1. Digitalisation is not for all !



Digitalisation is not for all !

The Covid pandemic at the latest has shown that pure distance learning is very advantageous for some students (e.g. employed, with children, with disabilities), but others cannot sustain this in the long term (e.g. mental health, no onboarding for beginners).



Digitalisation is not for all !

Of course, it is impossible to offer all courses twice, face-to-face and online, to meet every need.

So what to do?



Digitalisation is not for all !

But perhaps it is still possible to offer all courses twice, not per university, but at least in one online version per country?

Bavaria's virtual university could be an example for this.



Virtual University of Bavaria

<https://www.vhb.org/>

Participating universities can offer their courses also online at the virtual university. Students from all higher education institutions can then also acquire ECTS online - regardless of which higher education institution offers the specific course.



Virtual University of Bavaria

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However, although the vhb is already 20 years old, the range of courses offered is still very modest.

Nevertheless, a nationwide face-to-face offer as before + 1 virtual university per country could be a model to flexibly satisfy very different needs.



2. Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !



Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

This is especially true for schools.

Even in primary school, children often already have the "entire knowledge" of the world in their pockets.

Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

Some schools therefore ban smartphones in class, even though children will work with them (or with technology that has not yet been invented) for the rest of their lives.

Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

A maths app solves an equation more clearly than the teacher (because it shows more steps), many things are explained better on YouTube than in the classroom.

Peer learning via WhatsApp and other tools is already very widespread (teamwork) - but without teachers being able to monitor this and without ensuring that all students (can) participate.

Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

So what should you really learn at school or university?

E.g.: Memorisation as brain training is OK,
but maybe not to store knowledge "for
someday"?

Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

For example:

- Questioning online sources, critical thinking
- Meaningful applications for the knowledge in our pocket
- Creativity
- Tacit knowledge

Didactics and teachers are not yet ready for digitalisation !

Do our curricula make this possible?

No, because we lack the imagination of what could be possible if we were to integrate digitalisation into learning processes in a meaningful way.

Therefore, we do it the way we have always done it.



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Thank you for your attention!