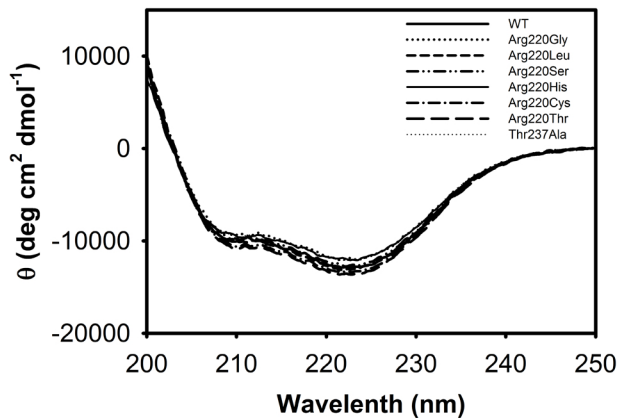
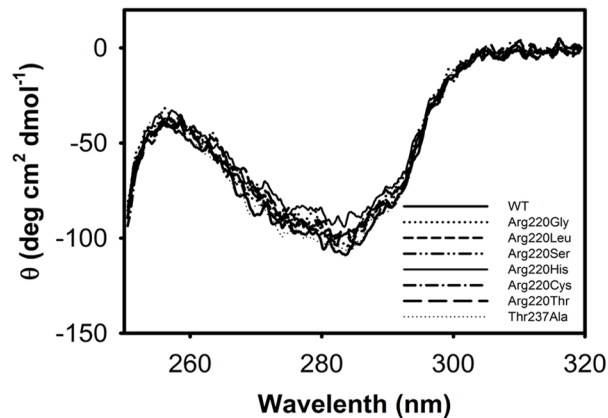
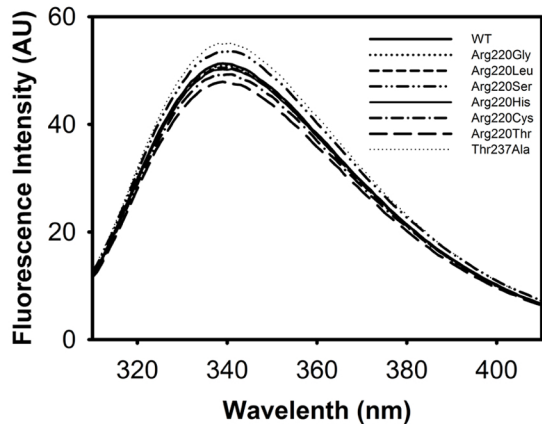


Fig. S1. Circular dichroism in the far (A) and near (B) UV regions and fluorescence spectroscopy (C) are shown for PER-2 β -lactamase variants. Panel D depicts the GdmCl-induced unfolding transitions as monitored by the total integrated fluorescence emission of proteins.

Table S1. Equilibrium unfolding parameters of wild-type PER-2 β -lactamase and derived mutants in Arg220 and Thr237.

	$\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \text{ NI}$ (kcal . mol ⁻¹)	$m \text{ NI}$ (kcal . mol ⁻¹ . M ⁻¹)	$\Delta G^{\circ}_{\text{H}_2\text{O}} \text{ IU}$ (kcal . mol ⁻¹)	$m \text{ IU}$ (kcal . mol ⁻¹ . M ⁻¹)
PER-2 wt	3.7	4.6	6.1	3.0
Arg220Leu	2.8	4.1	3.0	1.8
Arg220Ser	2.0	5.1	3.8	1.9
Arg220Gly	5.0	7.8	3.2	1.7
Arg220His	1.9	6.7	8.2	3.8
Arg220Thr	3.9	9.5	8.6	4.0
Arg220Cys	2.1	6.7	11.2	4.8
Thr237Ala	3.2	6.0	3.2	1.7

A**B****C****D**