



## Information for doctors and psychotherapists: Request for compensation for disadvantages

Students with disabilities can request a compensation for disadvantages in their studies and examinations at the relevant examination office in their department. The NRW Higher Education Act provides the instrument of compensation for disadvantages in order to create equal opportunities. Barriers and disadvantages that exist for students due to their physical, mental or sensory disability are to be reduced in this way. As a result, examination situations are designed in such a way that students with disabilities can demonstrate their full potential.

### Decision on the request for compensation for disadvantages

In the examination committees, people without medical expertise usually decide on the approval of request for compensation for disadvantages. The medical certificates and psychotherapeutic statements submitted serve as the main basis for decisions. They are therefore of great importance. In addition to the usual data, the following aspects should be listed in the letter from the medical specialist:

#### 1: Confirmation of the existence of a disability (without stating the diagnosis)

First of all, the existence of a disability of your patient must be certified without stating the diagnosis.

#### 2: Notification of medical symptoms

In a further step, the current situation and the symptoms of your patient's disability that affect their studies should be specified. The certificate must state how the disability manifests itself.

#### 3: Description of the effects in relation to coursework and examinations

The certificate should also contain statements about the duration, severity and effects on study and examination performance. It should clarify the extent to which the symptoms described affect your patient's studies and what disadvantages arise during studies or examinations due to the disability.

#### 4: Recommendations for appropriate adjustments

In addition, recommendations can be made as to which specific adjustments may be appropriate for certain study and examination situations so that your patient can fully access their own potential. This information often provides the examination boards with important information for processing the application. In this context, it is helpful if quantified information is provided where possible (example: "Writing time extension of XY percent").

#### 5: Author's data

The letter should state the name and position of the person who issued the certificate. The document must also be dated and signed by the person issuing the certificate.

### Advice on the request for compensation for disadvantages

The Student Counselling & Information Centre (ZSB) at Münster University of Applied Sciences provides support with questions or the need to discuss compensation for disadvantages (Tel.: 0251 83-64150, [studienberatung@fh-muenster.de](mailto:studienberatung@fh-muenster.de); [www.fhms.eu/kontakt-zsb](http://www.fhms.eu/kontakt-zsb))