



Information on compensation for disadvantages

in respect of examinations (Nachteilsausgleich)

What are compensations for disadvantages?

Students facing disadvantages as a result of disability or chronic illness may claim special accommodations or arrangements to compensate for these disadvantages. Alongside students with disabilities and/or chronic conditions, persons with mental health issues, partial performance dysfunctions (such as dyslexia or dyscalculia) or attention disorders may also be entitled to compensation for disadvantages.

Compensation for disadvantages guarantees that students with and without disabilities can take part in examinations on equal terms. To ensure equal opportunities for everyone, students with an impairment must achieve the same academic standards to pass an examination as non-impaired fellow students. Only the manner in which the knowledge or required skills are tested is adjusted to the special needs. **Compensations for disadvantages therefore do not make it easier to pass examinations or offer students unfair advantages. They serve only to compensate for disadvantages impaired students have compared to other students.**

Examples of compensations for disadvantages:

- extra time for written exams or coursework
- approval of the use of technical aids
- performance is assessed in a different manner or using a different type of assessment, for example
 - a written exam can be taken instead of an oral one, or vice versa
 - coursework can be assessed instead of a written examination
- a written exam can be held in a separate room
- additional breaks, which are not deducted from the exam time, can be permitted under supervision,
- spelling is not taken into account,

The precise form of compensation is always dependent on the individual case and is determined by the appointed person in the respective department.

Limitations of compensation for disadvantages

Compensations cannot be granted for performance deficits that relate to the type and scope of aptitude and skills that are of relevance to the examination. Moreover, compensation for disadvantages can no longer be claimed after an examination assessment has begun.

Application and organisation

Please submit your application for compensation for the **winter semester by December 1** and for the **summer semester by June 1**. Students must apply for compensation by submitting a formal application together with appropriate supporting documents, i.e. a certificate from a medical practitioner, a psychologist's report or, if applicable, a disabled person's ID card, to the appointed person in the respective department. The relevant contact person is named in the department website. You can find the application form on the University website. The medical practitioner's certificate or psychologist's report should not normally be more than two years old. The application form is returned to the student with a statement about the decision from the appointed person. If the application is granted, the student must inform the examination coordinator and the relevant lecturer independently with this confirmation, so that the disadvantage compensation can be adequately taken into account in the examination planning. A granted disadvantage compensation does not replace the registration for the examination. This must be done additionally in any case.

Advice and information

Officer for Students with Disabilities / Chronic Illnesses

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