

Student Charter: Studying with a functional disability

General

Statutory definition of 'handicap'

According to the relevant legislation, a handicap is a *functional limitation* or *chronic disease* which structurally hampers the student in participating in education and/ or taking interim examinations. Students who think they qualify for one of the following regulations can contact the Student Counselling Service.

Counselling and supervision

Students with a functional disability may approach the student deans and the study advisors for advice and guidance.

The *student deans* provide information about all the regulations and help with their implementation. They can submit a request to the Examination Board on behalf of a student for adjustments to education and examinations.

Study advisers can assist students by, among other things, modification of scheduling, and information to lecturers.

Housing

Students with a handicap may ask *Idealis* for urgency for housing. *Idealis* may ask for written evidence of the treating medical specialist.

Study financing and study allowance

Students who face study delay because of their functional disability, may -under certain conditions- apply at DUO for a 'provision performance grant', like one extra year of study financing.

For more information, check the DUO website: <https://duo.nl/particulier/> To be able to use a provision, the student must contact a student dean. The student dean assesses whether the student meets the conditions.

For information about individual study allowance, check the website of the municipality you are officially registered as a citizen.

Functional disability and the Student Financial Support Regulation (FOS regulation, Profiling Fund)

Students who are granted a statutory extension of 12 months of the study financing period (see above), but incur more study delay due to their disablement, may qualify for additional financial assistance under the Student Financial Support Regulation (FOS).

Participating in education and taking interim examinations

Based on the Equal Treatment Act, a student with a functional disability can request special facilities that are required to participate in education and to take interim examinations. In the Education and Examination Regulations is stated that Examining Boards must offer students with a functional disability a reasonable opportunity to take interim examinations that are adapted as much as possible to their circumstances. Students who require special facilities in order to participate in education or to take interim examinations are advised to contact one of the student deans well ahead.

A student with a functional disability can discuss with the student dean any facilities the student considers to be necessary to be able to join education and/ or take interim examinations. A student dean can submit a written request for facilities to the Examining Board on behalf of the student. The Examining Boards have mandated the student deans to decide on behalf of the Examining Boards about the provision of standard facilities for specific handicaps like AD(H)D, ASS, RSI, diabetes and dyslexia.

The Examining Board is to decide on the recommendation within four weeks. If the Examining Board agrees, the student dean establishes provisions in Osiris Student on behalf of the Examining Board. Subsequently, the student can tick the approved facilities in Osiris when registering for courses.

Possible adaptations may not affect the quality or level of (a part of) the study programme. This is reviewed by the Examining Board.

Adaptations to the education can include changes to:

- the study material (e.g. more accessible study material),
- the form (e.g. easing of compulsory attendance),
- the period of time (e.g. extension of time allowance for the completion of a component).

Adaptations to the method of examination can include changes to:

- the form (e.g. replacing multiple choice questions with open questions, examining the study material in the shape of sub-exams),
- the period of time (e.g. extra time during interim examinations, greater spread of interim examinations over the examination period),
- the time at which an interim examination is scheduled: students with a functional disability should not be hampered by e.g. scheduling interim examinations in the evening hours,
- aids which may be allowed during the test (e.g. specific hardware or software, large font size), the location (sitting the interim examination in a separate low-stimulus room).

A facility to help successful participation in education can include:

- availability of specially adapted furniture in examination and education areas,
- availability of special computer facilities (e.g. speech recognition or speech synthesis software),
- availability of a rest area.

Purchase of technical study aids

The costs of aids to allow students with a functional disability to participate in education will often be reimbursed via the private health insurance or the UWV (Employees Insurance Administration Office, www.uvw.nl) If a request is not granted, specialized private foundations can be approached. The student deans can advise on this. In case the costs of aids are not covered by insurance, UWV or private foundations, the university may sometimes support students by lending technical aids or help seeking solutions otherwise which might be supportive.

Erasmus+ students with a functional disability

Students with a functional disability can benefit from the support services that the receiving institution offers to its home students. Students willing to apply for the Erasmus+ Top-up need to report the functional disability at the student counsellors office and are supposed to substantiate their disability with a (medical) statement.

Objections and appeals

For objections and appeals, see the text on legal protection:

<https://www.wur.nl/en/Education-Programmes/Current-Students/Legal-protection-for-students-appeal-objection-complaint.htm>