

Compensation for disadvantages at EUF:

Instructions for preparing a medical expert opinion¹

Important initial explanations

Due to German examination law, students can **only receive compensation for disadvantages due to impairments in the presentation of their performance, not due to impairments in their performance itself**. If your medical report is to be the basis for compensation for disadvantages in study or examination performance, you must not certify that the student is generally unable to take examinations or is unable to study, as without the ability to study and take examinations there is no legal basis for compensation for disadvantages. If your medical report is to serve as a basis for subsequently withdrawing from an examination that has already been taken but not passed, you can certify a temporary inability to take the examination.

1. The medical (specialist) report

The medical specialist's report should ideally consist of two parts: an outline of how the student's medical situation puts them at a disadvantage in their studies compared to others, how the disadvantage presents itself from a medical specialist's point of view, and which measures are suitable from a medical (specialist's) point of view to compensate for the disadvantages.

1.1 Outline of the disadvantage from a medical perspective

Please indicate whether the need for disadvantage compensation is due to

- Disability(ies)
- Chronic illness(es)
- Illness(es)

(Multiple answers are possible; please specify if applicable)

¹ International students can ask doctors abroad to write them an expert medical opinion for their disadvantage compensation application. The examination boards who decide upon the application for the most part will need the medical expert opinion to be written in German or English, though. If your medical expert opinion is in another language than German or English you would need to provide a certified translation, then.

If the situation is long-term, please specify how long you expect the condition to last, if possible. (e.g. for the duration of the current semester or expected for the duration of the entire course of study?)

The disadvantages that are to be compensated for by means of disadvantage compensation measures arise for the student in (please specify where applicable):

- their daily study routine
- the organization of their studies
- the performance of examinations
- the requirements of their course of study

(Multiple answers are possible, please name and explain where applicable)

The medical reasons given for why disadvantage compensation is required must contain information that is comprehensible to third parties who know nothing about the illness(es), chronic illness(es), disability(ies) or impairment(s). The information must relate to the impairment(s) and the associated disadvantages or difficulties in study and examination performance or requirements for the course of study. In particular, they should explain how the impairments affect aspects and activities relevant to studies and/or examinations, e.g. writing by hand, typing, sitting, reading, lecturing, participating, concentrating, sports activities, completing homework, working in groups, giving presentations, taking part in internships or excursions.

Generally, the examination board does not require a diagnosis for its decision, but rather a precise description of the disadvantages that are to be compensated for.

Therefore, please do not state any diagnoses except in cases where your text would not be comprehensible without a diagnosis (e.g. reading and spelling difficulties, a.k.a. dyslexia). Students applying for compensation for disadvantages have a right to privacy and data protection!

1.2 Suitable measures to compensate for disadvantages from a medical point of view

In the 2nd part of your expert opinion, please list the measures that are suited to compensate for the existing disadvantages from a medical point of view. Please

name these as specifically as possible, e.g. separate examination room, extension of the processing time by 25%, use of a computer to take a written examination, rest breaks, cue sheets in oral examinations, accompaniment by an assistant, other forms of examination, and so on.

The measures applied for must clearly relate to the disadvantages described above.

For example: "Due to dyslexia, the student needs more time to read a seminar text, as they have to read sentences several times to understand them and to decipher and put together certain words. The student also has to spend more time, concentration and care when taking notes and writing their own texts than students without dyslexia. Therefore, from a medical point of view, I recommend an extension of the processing time for term papers of 4 weeks as compensation for disadvantages, an extension of the processing time for exams of 50% and the writing of exams under individual supervision in order to reduce distractions for the increased concentration necessary for the student to read the exam questions and answers".

Please note: Extensions of processing time and breaks must always be requested in minutes or percentages for oral or written exams and in days or weeks for term papers.

e.g. "I recommend an extension of processing time in exams of 25%"

or "I recommend an extension of processing time for 60-minute exams of 20 minutes, for 90-minute exams of 30 minutes".

You can recommend the measures for a limited period of time or for the entire duration of the Bachelor's or Master's degree program.

If questions should arise during the writing of the expert medical opinion or while reading these instructions please do not hesitate to contact Jorma Heier at the Equal Opportunities Department of the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF), Germany.