



February 2017

## **Information for Students with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses**

### **1. About the Disability Office**

#### **1.1 Goal and Tasks**

The Disability Office is committed to providing equitable access to students with disabilities or impairments in accordance with the applicable the legal provisions (Article 8 of the Swiss Federal Constitution, see attachment).

On May 15, 2014, Switzerland ratified the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Therefore, University of Zurich has the responsibility to prevent discrimination of people with disabilities through proper precautions. Academic disadvantages due to disabilities can be compensated with individualized support (refer to Article 24 of UN CRPD).

Our office assists students with various disabilities such as visual, hearing and mobility impairments, as well as students who live with chronic or physical illness, and students with Asperger syndrome, ADHS or dyslexia. We are aware that such conditions impact one's studies and therefore, adjustments are necessary to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

#### **1.2 Service for Students**

- Consulting, assisting and transfer of information
- Clarification of the necessary individual accommodation as a basis for students' application to the faculties, in accordance with paragraph 17 (see attachment) in the Regulation on Admission to study at the University of Zurich
- Organizing support such as providing assistance in academic related activities
- Mediation of various disability-related services
- Accessibility information about buildings, lecture rooms and special facilities at the University of Zurich. Online accessibility guide of UZH can be found here: [www.uniability.uzh.ch](http://www.uniability.uzh.ch).

### **2. Book an Appointment at the Disability Office**

Organizing support, such as writing clarification, application and implementation of individual adjustments takes time. For that reason, we advise you to contact us early enough. For an ideal consult session, we ask you to bring a medical documentation (see 2.1) and also inform yourself of academic requirements (2.2). The appointment is free of charge and your personal information will be handled strictly confidential. No information without the consent of students will be passed on to a third party.



## 2.1 Components of an Appropriate Medical Documentation

To apply for academic related adjustments, the Disability Office must be able to assess your situation and your needs comprehensively. Therefore, it is important for you to hand in an appropriate medical documentation, which increases the chance of establishing the requested adjustments.

A successful documentation must meet following criteria:

- ✓ No more than a year old. In special cases or in the case of neurodiagnostic assessment it can be older.
- ✓ The letterhead should include the title of the practitioner, date and a signature
- ✓ The patient's name, address and date of the birth
- ✓ Diagnosis according to the recognized classification system (e.g. ICD-10 or DSM IV)
- ✓ States when the diagnosis was made and describes the degree of impairment and development tendency (stable, progressive, recurrent). If it is not possible to get a statement about current status, prove that continuing the therapy would be helpful. The university might request a follow-up report at a later stage.
- ✓ List of previous treatments as well as compensatory means, if used
- ✓ A full assessment of how and to which extent the health restriction impacts academic related activities (e.g. exams, studying, attendance, cognition, concentration, etc.)

To apply for the extension of studying period (especially the Assessment period) please include **additionally**:

- ✓ Time frame of absence due to illness or impairment
- ✓ Prognosis of further course of study (performance)

## 2.2 Information about Academic Requirements

Take your time to read through the UZH website. Have a good look at the regulation of your faculty, study regulations and guidelines for your chosen major(s). For study-related questions, consult the responsible person. Inform yourself about faculty-specific information and dates/deadlines from the website. For prospective students: inform yourself before the appointment about the structure of your studies and required performance.

## 3. Register for Support

Fill out the registration form for a consultation session at the Disability Office (<http://tiny.uzh.ch/Fo>).



## **Attachment**

### **§ 17 in der Verordnung über die Zulassung zum Studium an der UZH (VZS)**

<sup>1</sup> Bei Vorliegen einer ärztlich bescheinigten Behinderung oder chronischen Krankheit (gemäss Art. 1 UNO-BRK) ist während des Immatrikulationsverfahrens bei der Fachstelle Studium und Behinderung ein Gesuch zur Prüfung der Auswirkung auf studienrelevante Aktivitäten einzureichen.

<sup>2</sup> Allfällig den Nachteil ausgleichende Massnahmen können nur nach erfolgter Prüfung semesterweise gewährt werden.

### **1. Auszug aus der Schweizerischen Bundesverfassung (BV) vom 18. April 1999 (Stand am 29. März 2005)**

#### **Art. 8 Rechtsgleichheit**

<sup>1</sup> Alle Menschen sind vor dem Gesetz gleich.

<sup>2</sup> Niemand darf diskriminiert werden, namentlich nicht wegen [...] einer körperlichen, geistigen oder psychischen Behinderung.

<sup>3</sup> Mann und Frau sind gleichberechtigt. [...]

<sup>4</sup> Das Gesetz sieht Massnahmen zur Beseitigung von Benachteiligungen der Behinderten vor.

### **2. Auszug aus der Behindertenrechtskonvention (UNO-BRK), in der Schweiz am 15. Mai 2014 ratifiziert**

#### **Art. 1**

Zu den Menschen mit Behinderungen zählen Menschen, die langfristige körperliche, seelische, geistige oder Sinnesbeeinträchtigungen haben, welche sie in Wechselwirkung mit verschiedenen Barrieren an der vollen, wirksamen und gleichberechtigten Teilhabe an der Gesellschaft hindern können.

#### **Art. 24, Abs. 1**

Die Vertragsstaaten anerkennen das Recht von Menschen mit Behinderungen auf Bildung. Um dieses Recht ohne Diskriminierung und auf der Grundlage der Chancengleichheit zu verwirklichen, gewährleisten die Vertragsstaaten ein integratives Bildungssystem auf allen Ebenen [...].

#### **Art. 24, Abs. 5**

Die Vertragsstaaten stellen sicher, dass Menschen mit Behinderungen ohne Diskriminierung und gleichberechtigt mit anderen Zugang zu allgemeiner Hochschulbildung, Berufsausbildung, Erwachsenenbildung und lebenslangem Lernen haben. Zu diesem Zweck stellen die Vertragsstaaten sicher, dass für Menschen mit Behinderungen angemessene Vorkehrungen getroffen werden.