

Information on medical certificates for compensation for disadvantages

Form of medical certificate

The medical certificate should be up to date (not more than six months old). It should contain the following:

1. Stamp of the specialist medical or psychotherapeutic practice, name and signature of the treating person, and date of issue.
2. Description of functional limitations in relation to academic performance, in particular limitations in perception, cognition, behaviour and physical functionality, depending on the clinical picture.
3. Description of how the impairment or chronic illness is likely to develop.
4. If it is a permanent condition with unchanging functional impairment, this should be noted on the medical certificate.
5. If possible, a recommendation on how to compensate for disadvantages.

Purpose of the required medical certificate

The student must apply for compensation for disadvantages in the manner specified in the examination regulations. An assessment by a medical specialist / psychotherapist in the form of a medical certificate must accompany the application. All medical certificates and supporting documents should be submitted without reference to a diagnosis. The purpose of the medical certificate or assessment is to provide evidence of the need for the recommended support measures to the Dean's Offices or examinations boards responsible for compensating for disadvantages. It is therefore important to specify as precisely as possible the functional limitations of students in an examination situation so that the University can find measures to compensate for the disadvantages caused by the individual impairment against the background of the applicable examination regulation(s), without violating equal opportunities for all students.

Information on compensation for disadvantages

If students experience disadvantages in their studies due to impairments, these disadvantages must be compensated by appropriate measures. Such accommodations take into account the difficulties that students with disabilities face in demonstrating their knowledge and skills under standardised conditions. However, the following conditions must be met for compensation for disadvantages to be granted:

- Equal opportunities for all students must be maintained, i.e. compensating for disadvantages may not lead to students with disabilities being placed at an advantage.
- The impairment must be long term, i.e. there may not be any certainty of cure or freedom from symptoms in the foreseeable future. § 2 (1) of Book IX of the German Social Code [SGB IX] currently assumes that a prolonged impairment will very likely last longer than six months.