

## Assistance services

University studies are fundamentally different from school (with prefabricated schedules and fixed structures) and are associated with many new challenges that require a high degree of personal responsibility and self-structuring. This can be a particular difficulty for many students with health impairments, which can hardly be mastered without additional aids or assistance services.

Study assistants can therefore support students with a chronic illness or disability in their everyday university life, e.g. by fetching a book from the top row of shelves, reading texts aloud, taking notes on course content or helping with literature research in the library.

The type and extent of support depends on the individual effects of the impairments and the chosen course of study. Unfortunately, there is no "pool" of available assistants at the University of Bonn for individual assistance services in the sense of disability compensation (e.g. dictation/spelling assistance); procurement and organization of the services is usually the responsibility of the student. In this case, you can try to look for appropriate specialists for the area of study via the „[Assistenzdienst](#)“ (= assistance service) or similar providers.

If necessary, students of higher semesters in the respective department can provide additional support (for the purpose of better knowledge of the internal departmental structures and requirements), which you should then also search for yourself at best - possibly with the help of the departmental student advisory service, student council or AStA. Sometimes a notice on the real or virtual "bulletin board" is also successful.

The necessary assistance is financed on application mainly by the responsible supra-local social welfare agency via the "[Eingliederungshilfe für behinderte Menschen zum Besuch einer Hochschule](#)" (= integration assistance for disabled people to attend a university) or the „[Persönliche Budget](#)“ (= personal budget). Before submitting an application, it is therefore advisable, for example with the help of your treating specialist, to narrow down and calculate the type and scope of the concrete assistance services required individually.

A differentiation is made between various forms of assistance services within the framework of the study program:

### **A. Technical aids**

In particular, students with [visual impairments](#), [hearing impairments](#), and [physical impairments](#), as well as students with [dyslexia](#), use various technical aids to compensate for impairment-related limitations. Students generally procure assistive technology devices themselves, which must be tailored to their particular individual needs. Once the responsibility and personal requirements have been clarified, the supra-local social welfare agencies or, in some cases, the health insurance funds usually take over the financing of the necessary aids for studying.

## B. Personal assistance

Here, different options are available depending on the type and extent of personal needs:

- **Support with study and self-organization (structuring).**  
For this purpose, all students - especially first-year students - have access to [Subject-specific study advisors](#) and/or **tutors or mentors** within the respective degree programs; you will receive important information on this during the subject-specific introductory events.
- Experience has shown that **students with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD)** benefit from additional personal support (through **study guides, sponsorships, buddies, pilots, etc.**) due to the many change processes and new framework conditions, especially for the start of studies or for a limited period of time, for example for
  - the creation of a timetable or individual study plan for each semester
  - spatial orientation within the university or the study program
  - technical applications (BASIS, HRZ-Email, e-Campus etc.)
  - the registration and deregistration of courses and examinations, including deadlines
  - the creation of a so-called "semester card" with important contact persons and contact details (also for emergencies)
  - networking with other students.

At the University of Bonn, the following **buddy/sponsorship projects** are currently offered for this purpose:

- **Inclusion in and through University Sports (SpINK)**  
Contact: Mr. Hammerschlag  
[spink@uni-bonn.de](mailto:spink@uni-bonn.de)
  - **Faculty of Philosophy - Institute of Philosophy**  
Contact: Ms. Mühlbacher  
[s5somueh@uni-bonn.de](mailto:s5somueh@uni-bonn.de)
- **Communication Assistants**

**Deaf, deafened and severely hearing-impaired students** usually require the translation of the spoken word by sign language or written interpreters in order to participate in lectures and seminars. If necessary, the different communication habits of the students must be taken into account.

The placement of interpreters is carried out, among others, by [Vermittlungszentralen](#) (= placement centers), which mostly work state-wide in the individual federal states (> [NRW](#)). Assistance should be organized at an early stage, since a sufficient number of qualified interpreters is not available everywhere.

The financing of study-related communication assistance is usually provided by the integration assistance for disabled people.

## C. Assistance Dogs

People with disabilities have the right to full, effective and equal participation in society. [Assistance dogs](#) are specially trained dogs and assist their humans in doing so in everyday life in a variety of ways as needed. Assistance dogs include **guide dogs for the blind, disabled companion dogs, signal dogs, and diabetes and epilepsy indicator dogs.**

Among other things, an "assistance dog" can be applied for or approved under Section 33(1) of the Social Code Book V if it not only functions as an everyday companion but also fulfills the functions of an "[assistive device](#)". You should first clarify with your attending specialist whether applying for an "assistance dog" is an option for you. Financing should then be possible within the framework of integration assistance via the responsible local or supra-local social assistance agency (e.g. [LVR](#)).

You can find the nearest qualified assistance dog trainer in your area [here](#).

Within the scope of its house rules, the University of Bonn has so far not issued any regulations regarding the bringing of dogs onto the premises and in buildings of the university. In this respect, there is no ban so far, but **permission** is still required to ensure that these are **justified exceptions** and that certain rules are observed.

This requires an **application for disadvantage compensation** from the student **concerned to the relevant [examination authority](#)**. Each application must be examined individually and evaluated according to dutiful discretion. If there are any problems in this regard, please contact the [representative for students with disabilities or chronic illnesses](#), who can also provide you with an appropriate **information sheet and sample applications**.

Within the framework of equal participation as well as under consideration of the requirement of mutual consideration and the keywords leash guidance, cleanliness, dog liability and, if necessary, muzzle, assistance dogs can thus be carried along in the University of Bonn in justified individual cases, if in particular the following **criteria** are **fulfilled** and **proven** in individual cases **by a suitable certificate - as an attachment to the above-mentioned application**:

- Ensuring regular veterinary care and vaccination of the dog
- Unobjectionable behavior of the dog in public and in stress situations (if necessary with use of a muzzle)
- Existing relationship of trust between you and the dog
- Successful cooperation in the practice
- Fulfillment of the therapeutic purposes
- No (allergy or hygiene) danger for the environment.

Nevertheless, the interests of teachers and fellow students (e.g. allergies, fears/phobias, etc.) would then also have to be taken into account in order to bring about a consensus between all those affected or involved.

In case of an approval by the examination board, the respective teachers and fellow students will be informed in advance that the dog is a necessary "assistance or therapy companion dog" for health reasons and does not represent a threat, danger or similar.