

## Specialist Medical Certificate for Submission to the Examination Authority Together with an Application for Accessibility Accommodations

Dear attending physicians,  
Dear attending psychotherapists,

One of your patients has asked you for a medical certificate for submission to an examination board/office at the University of Bonn. The goal is to obtain accessibility accommodations to compensate for the individual disadvantages caused by a disability or chronic illness that make coursework and examinations more difficult.

Since decisions on whether to approve applications for accessibility accommodations are generally made by medical laypeople in the examination boards/offices, the supporting documents from medical specialists included with these applications are very important for the approval decision, and for the students' ability to manage their coursework and examinations and therefore successfully complete their studies. As the **Representative for Students with Disabilities or Chronic Illnesses** at the University of Bonn, I would therefore like to provide you with more information on the procedure that is followed for accessibility accommodations.

Providing individual accessibility accommodations **does not give preference** to a student, but is instead a way to help realize the **integration and equal opportunity** that students with disabilities or chronic illnesses are **legally entitled** to under higher education law for the purpose of achieving equal participation. Students must be able to acquire the skills and qualification targets required by the applicable examination regulations and provide proof of this by taking examinations. While accessibility accommodations can modify the form and conditions for acquiring the skills and course assessments, the course objectives themselves must still be achieved.

A variety of measures are generally possible for implementing an individual accessibility accommodation. These measures depend on the specific health impairment and how it makes studies more difficult and must be capable of compensating for these individual disadvantages. Due to the variety of different needs and subject-specific factors, it is (unfortunately) not possible to specify standards. We therefore request that the student concerned, and you as an expert for the health condition, agree on which measures are necessary and appropriate before the application is submitted and that you then recommend those measures.

**Examples** of possible measures for accessibility accommodations are [available here](#).

In addition to the usual information, the specialist medical certificate required for the accessibility accommodation should also include the following:

- Confirmation of the existence of a disability or chronic illness  
> **The diagnosis is subject to data protection and therefore does not have to be disclosed.**
- A description of the specific individual disadvantages that result from this health impairment and affect the student's basic capabilities, thereby making their studies more difficult (e.g. a high level of distractibility due to sensory overload, concentration disorders due to the health condition, slower writing motor skills, severe motor restrictions)

- Specific information/recommendations for the type and scope of the compensation measure(s) required, such as
  - 20/30/50% extension of the writing time for written work
  - 5/10/15-minute break after each ... minutes of the examination that is not included in the examination time
  - Conducting the examination in a separate room (with max. ... individuals)
  - Use of aids, support persons or assistance services in the form of ...
  - Different type of examination (e.g. written instead of oral, theoretical instead of practical, etc.)as well as additional information on why and to what extent they are suitable as an accessibility accommodation
- Name and title of the issuing person

The examination authority then makes the final decision, at its discretion with due care and diligence, as to whether the requested accessibility accommodation is necessary, suitable and appropriate to create equal opportunity examination conditions.

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Additional information is available on my [web pages](http://www.studierenmithandicap.uni-bonn.de) ([www.studierenmithandicap.uni-bonn.de](http://www.studierenmithandicap.uni-bonn.de)).

Yours sincerely,



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