



Information on the subject of studying with impairments

Disability compensation for dyslexia

What effect can dyslexia have on studies?

Students with attributed dyslexia can face various challenges at university. For example, they may fail to complete their work in the prescribed time, as they require more time to read and comprehend questions and problems, extract information from text, process this and subsequently formulate it. Adjustments may also be necessary with regard to spelling. However, the effects of the attributed dyslexia can vary greatly from case to case. It is consequently always important to take account of the specific individual case with regard to disability compensation. We therefore recommend a direct conversation with the students concerned.

Do students with dyslexia have a claim to disability compensation?

Under examination law, dyslexia has been recognised as a disability.¹ Students with dyslexia therefore have a claim to disability compensation if the difficulty in reading and writing impairs the presentation of their ability. If the ascertainment of spelling and grammar ability is itself the subject of the examination, no disability compensation can be granted.

Possible disability compensatory measures for dyslexia may be (also in combined form):

- an extension of writing time, as some students with dyslexia can deliver appropriate performance with an extended working time
- the use of a computer with spell check in written examinations
- the use of reading programmes or language recognition and dictation programmes on the PC or the use of dictation devices (e.g. the software "Wody", which can be borrowed via the equal opportunities office: <http://www.gleichstellung.uni-leipzig.de/diversitaet/inklusion/barrierefreie-pruefungs-arbeitsplaetze-und-hilfsmittel/>)
- transformation of a written examination into an oral one, so long as this form of examination can be used to examine the same competences

¹ See: Ruling of Schleswig-Holstein Higher Administrative Court 19/08/2002/case no.: 3 M 41/02; ruling of Hesse Higher Administrative Court, NJW 2006, 1608, Dyslexia in law exams, extension of writing time