

## Information and Counselling on Studying with a Health Impairment

### Services for Students with Disabilities

Servicestelle „Studium und Behinderung“  
Abteilung II „Studium und Lehre“  
E-Mail: [inklusion@uni-kassel.de](mailto:inklusion@uni-kassel.de)  
Web: [www.uni-kassel.de/inklusion](http://www.uni-kassel.de/inklusion)

You may also refer directly to the person in charge (Behindertenbeauftragte) in your faculty (Fachbereich).

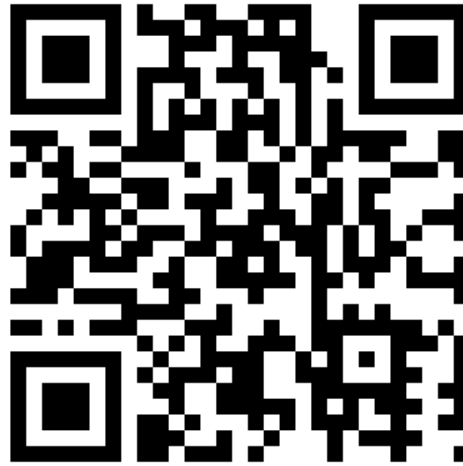
### Other relevant institutions at the University of Kassel

Administrative Coordination of Exams  
Koordination der Prüfungsverwaltung:  
Website: [www.uni-kassel.de/themen/lehr-und-studienqualitaet/pruefungsverwaltung.html](http://www.uni-kassel.de/themen/lehr-und-studienqualitaet/pruefungsverwaltung.html)

Women's and Equal Opportunity Office  
Frauen- und Gleichstellungsbüro:  
Website: [www.uni-kassel.de/go/familyservice](http://www.uni-kassel.de/go/familyservice)

Political Organization for Students with Disabilities, General Students' Committee  
Autonomes Behindertenreferat des AStA (ABeR):  
E-Mail: [kontakt@behindertenreferat-kassel.de](mailto:kontakt@behindertenreferat-kassel.de)  
Web: [www.behindertenreferat-kassel.de](http://www.behindertenreferat-kassel.de)

Psychosocial Advising, Studentenwerk  
Psychosoziale Beratungsstelle des Studentenwerks Kassel:  
E-Mail: [beratung@studentenwerk.uni-kassel.de](mailto:beratung@studentenwerk.uni-kassel.de)  
Website: [www.studentenwerk-kassel.de/pbs/](http://www.studentenwerk-kassel.de/pbs/)



**Imprint**  
© 2016

Version: 11/2016

### Published by

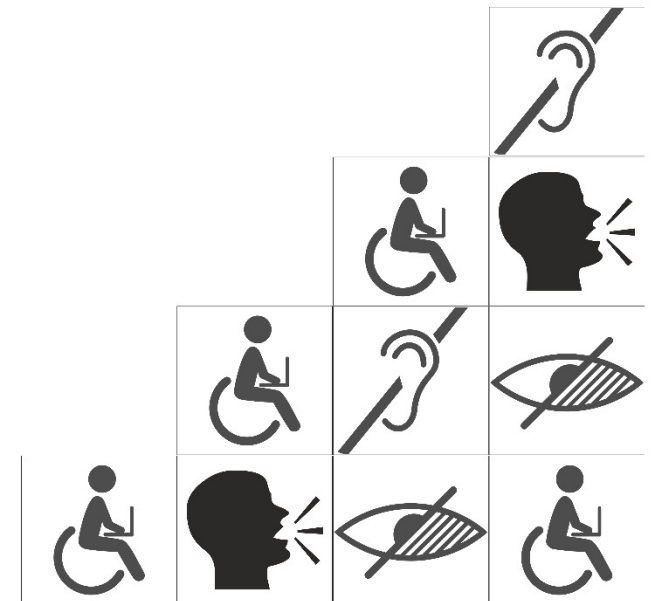
Universität Kassel  
Servicestelle „Studium und Behinderung“  
Abteilung II „Studium und Lehre“

Cover Illustration: Uni Kassel /  
Icons by Fotolia – J.Rommé

## Teaching without Barriers Ohne Barrieren lehren!

Introductory Information for Lecturers on „Studying with a Disability“, „Accessibility“, and “Inclusion”

Short Version in English



## Moving towards a „University for All“ . Teaching, Accessibility, and Inclusion at the University of Kassel.

The Deutsches Studentenwerk estimates that about 7 - 10% of students in each year group face a major disability / health impairment that impedes their academic progress at some point of their career.

Responding to that situation, the University of Kassel has decided to take the necessary steps and evolve into an accessible University for All. The university thus seeks to contribute to civil society's efforts and commitments concerning the increased participation of people with disabilities, and an inclusive approach to human diversity.

Within the usual routines of university life, however, it may pose quite a challenge to handle the health impairments of students with adequate confidence and care. Accessible teaching is nonetheless one of the major foundations of an inclusive, accessible university.

To support you, the professionals who shape the learning environment at our university, in meeting this challenge, the „Services for Students with Disabilities“ team offers, among many other things, the booklet „Ohne Barrieren lehren“ (Teaching without barriers) for lecturers, and a guide for students with health impairments. Of course, the team is also looking forward to discussing your questions with you.

This flyer is to provide a very short introduction to the topic and a summary of the booklet.

## „Ohne Barrieren lehren“ – Abstract

The booklet „Ohne Barrieren lehren!“ – „Dozentenbroschüre“ (Teaching without Barriers, in German) informs lecturers about the possible impacts of the following kinds of **impairments** in the university context:

- Mobility (motor) Impairments;
- Hearing Impairments and Deafness;
- Visual Impairments and Blindness;
- Psychological or Mental Issues;
- Chronic Diseases (other);
- Dyslexia / Dyscalculia;
- Epilepsy (incl. Emergency Advice).

The booklet provides preliminary points of reference for the teaching practice of lecturers. A complete survey of this complex and heterogeneous topic is neither intended nor possible in this form.

After a short characterisation of the relevant impairment itself, its possible impacts on a student's academic career are discussed, and implications for accessible teaching styles are proposed. What can be done? Links and addresses complete each chapter.

Read about these **key words and concepts**:

- Disability (Concept);
- Accommodations for Exams;
- First aid facilities / Relaxation rooms;
- Disability Status / Identity Card (Schwerbehindertenausweis / GdB);
- Personal Assistance for Students
- Semester on Leave, health-related. (Urlaubssemester wegen Erkrankung)

## Six Shortcuts to Accessible Classes

**1) Open-mindedness – Talk & Listen:** Make it as easy as possible for students to discuss impairments and support needs. Stigma and prejudice are major problems in academia, “invented” impairments are not.

**2) Accommodations for Exams:** Some students with (health) impairments require special accommodations to be able to demonstrate their academic potential in exams. They may apply for a *Nachteilsausgleich* ('adjustment') with the Examination Board well ahead (!) of the actual exam. Key Principle: Different form, same content and level of qualification. Read the regulations online.

**3) Time & Effort:** Students with impairments commonly need additional time to complete various tasks. Additional efforts are required for them to organise their daily lives effectively. Please take this into account if problems arise.

**4) Multiple Channels:** Make sure you are easy to understand (audibly) and to watch (visually) while teaching. Address multiple channels/ senses: Visualise. Verbalise, Use the blackboard or slides.

**5) Preparation:** Publish course material / relevant literature early. Thus, you support all students, especially those with impairments, to prepare adequately for your classes.

**6) Making it Real:** Cooperate with the Examination Boards. Support the university in realising its policies concerning inclusion and accessibility – through your own teaching practice.