



university of  
applied sciences

# Studying with a disability

NHL Stenden University  
of Applied Sciences makes  
it possible



# Studying with a disability

## NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences makes it possible

Do you have a disability and would you like to study? You can! NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences does its utmost to help you succeed with your studies. We will work out an individual solution together so you can make the best use of your talents and graduate.

Studying with a disability can be difficult at times. Perhaps you need more time to complete tests, or less strict attendance requirements. Maybe the physical environment of the university needs to be adapted. NHL Stenden offers its students provisions geared to personal circumstances, such as customised chairs, along with general provisions. Our buildings, for instance, are as physically accessible as possible.

One in ten students in higher education has a disability. This also applies to NHL Stenden students. So you are no exception at our university. We offer a range of solutions to enable you to study successfully. Preventing or limiting any delay in your studies is a priority. Talking about what you need, we will try to come to a tailored arrangement, always within the scope offered by the education and exam programmes, of course.

### **Personal guidance**

The university can provide you with support before you even start your course. Even if you are still doubting your choice of study and you want to know what is and is not possible within a programme, we advise you to make an appointment with a student counsellor in advance. If you become disabled during your study or you require other facilities, then we will try to find a solution together.

### **Adjustments and facilities**

Besides personal support, adaptations in your studying conditions and facilities for an optimal accessibility, can make a huge difference for you. The student counsellor will work out a solution tailored to your situation with you. For example:





## Adjustments and facilities

### Educational provisions

- additional counselling by the personal coach or the student counsellor
- use of recording equipment during lectures
- agreements on attendance requirements
- adjustments to the timetable or study hours

### Test provisions:

- extra time
- tests provided on A3 sized paper
- completing tests in an environment with limited stimuli
- completing tests aided by a reading program
- taking tests using a laptop

### Material provisions:

- lifts
- rest areas
- bathrooms and parking spaces for disabled people
- customised chairs

### Financial provisions:

- The Profile Fund of NHL Stenden University. You may apply to this fund if you are unable to graduate within the period demanded by the performance grant.
- The student counsellor can inform you about the possibilities offered by DUO (Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs – Education Executive), such as extension of your (supplementary) grant or of the degree period.

### Workshops and training courses:

- choosing the right study programme
- study skills
- studying with dyslexia
- coping with fear of failure
- assertiveness
- study group for students with AD(H)D or an Autism Spectrum Disorder

### Study buddy:

You apply for a study buddy – a (senior) student of the same study programme who can help you on your way and/or offer additional individual support.



## What can you do?

The student counsellors' office at NHL Stenden is the first point of contact for students with a disability. In order for us to respond to any question you may have, please tell us about your disability early on.

You can always ask your study coach and student counsellor for advice near on the best ways to deal with your disability during your studies. The student counsellors' office can provide information on arrangements you can use in order to prevent or limit study delays.

Do this a few months before commencing your studies, so you can discuss any arrangements and adaptations on time. If you become disabled during your studies, for instance due to an accident, please let us know as soon as possible. Even if you do not need any adaptations, it is wise to be well informed.



## interview

'The facilities I have received have given me a lot of support. I don't always need them but it is great to know I can fall back on them. It creates peace of mind and it's a strong motivator for me to continue.'

*Student*

## Your right

The Equal Treatment Act demands that no distinction be made between people with and people without a disability. It follows that you have a right to the required adaptations for your studies. There is also the Higher Education and Research Act (WHW). This states that a programme must give you the opportunity to follow education, take exams and do an internship in a way suited to you. Educational institutions must also offer you financial support in the event of any study delays.

## What is a disability?

We understand the terms (functional) disability and chronic illness to mean any physical, sensory or functional impairment that delays study progress. These could be visual, auditory and motor disabilities, language impairments (dyslexia), calculation impairments (dyscalculia), issues with information processing (autism), attention (AD(H)D), speech, stamina, memory, concentration and organ functions but also phobias, depression, epilepsy, rheumatism, ME, chronic RSI and severe migraines. (Source: *Ministry of Education, Culture, and Science 2010*).

## Centre of Expertise for Disability + Study

The Centre of Expertise for Disability + Study has an excellent website that provides lots of information on studying with a disability. [www.handicap-studie.nl](http://www.handicap-studie.nl)

## Want to know more?

Then contact the student counsellors' office of NHL Stenden.

## Contact



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