



What are reasonable accommodations?

Information sheet No. 1 on reasonable accommodations

1. Definition

Reasonable accommodations are special measures implemented to ensure equal opportunities for students with long-term health impairments or disabilities. Under certain conditions, you may request that course-work and examination conditions, and/or degree program requirements and regulations are modified to meet your personal needs.

People with long-term physical and psychological illnesses, specific disorders, autism spectrum disorders or other neurodivergent conditions, motor impairments, and seeing, hearing, and speech impairments may be eligible for reasonable accommodations.

2. What is the legal basis for reasonable accommodation requests?

Make sure your request refers to Section 11 of the University of Hamburg bachelor's and master's degree examination regulations which sets forth regulations for reasonable accommodations. Degree programs requiring a final state or church examination have similar provisions. These are overseen by state or church authorities.

3. What requirements must students fulfill?

To qualify for reasonable accommodations, you must have long-term health impairments and:

- your health impairments would result in specific disadvantages if you are required to complete or fulfill certain degree program and examination requirements under standard conditions
- measures to compensate for disadvantages do not conflict with the examination objective. The examination objective is determined by the relevant regulations and module descriptions.

4. What reasonable accommodation measures are common?

There is no list of possible reasonable accommodation options to choose from. Rather, your health impairments and degree program conditions will be assessed to devise your individual reasonable accommodation plan in compliance with current case law.

The following table lists examples of measures for the most common examination formats.

Examination formats	Reasonable accommodation examples
Written examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extension of completion time (e.g., 25%) optional breaks during written examinations which do not count toward completion time; the sum total of breaks should not exceed a certain percentage (e.g., 20%) of the standard completion time. allocation of a separate room for the examination, in which only a few other examinees may take their examinations permission to use a laptop as an assistive writing device permission to use passive hearing protection permission to use an assistant, e.g., for reading or writing formatting tasks/questions in sans serif fonts, e.g., Arial, type size 16, and 1.5 line spacing
Oral examinations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> provision of quiet, low-stimulus rooms for oral examinations visualization of examination questions, e.g., via a laptop a short optional break for quick recovery during oral examinations replacing an oral group examination with an individual exam permission to use of 2 sign language interpreters examination scheduling preferences, e.g., only after 9 am
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> option to give presentation while seated option to exclude the plenum option to replace a presentation with a screencast
Term papers Final theses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> extension of completion time (e.g., 40%)

There is wide range of other possible measures, for instance accommodations of lab and vocational internships, teaching placements, field trips, or stays abroad. Often, reasonable accommodations can include increasing the number of permissible absences from in-person classes with attendance requirements

5. Who provides information and advice on reasonable accommodations?

We are happy to advise you in person, by phone, or via Zoom. Find more information on reasonable accommodations on the [Office for Students with Disabilities website](#).

6. Further information sheets on reasonable accommodations

The following information sheets provide further details on reasonable accommodations:

- Information sheet No. 2: [How can I seek reasonable accommodations for my degree program?](#)
- Information sheet No. 3: [Required proof for requesting reasonable accommodations](#)
- Information sheet No. 4: [What to do when I have been granted reasonable accommodations](#)

Last updated: January 2025