

Information about Disadvantage Compensations

This information sheet is intended to inform students with long-term or permanent disabilities, chronic or psychological illnesses that they are entitled to apply for compensation for disadvantages, provided that they cannot participate in examinations for the above-mentioned reasons. This can mean that you will be granted an extension for taking an examination in a module or an opportunity to deliver an equivalent academic achievement in a different form. The exact nature of the disadvantage compensation will be determined on an individual basis.

Please note the following instructions:

The disadvantage compensation is regulated according to "Safeguarding Provisions" of the § 21 APO (general examination regulations for Bachelor's and Master's programs as well as other courses offered at the University of Göttingen, current version: AM I no. 54 v. 09.11.2017; **Only those regulations published by the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen in its Official Bulletins are legally binding. Any claims to rights or titles resulting from the English translation of these regulations are expressly excluded**):

„§ 21 Safeguarding Provisions

(1) 1If the examination candidate credibly demonstrates in good time before registering for an examination component or commencing an examination prerequisite that they are not in a position (e.g. on account of a long-lasting illness or a permanent handicap or mental illness) to deliver these examination components or examination prerequisites or any portion thereof in the prescribed way, then said examination candidate shall be given the opportunity, as compensation of disadvantages, to deliver the component after an extended processing period or equivalent components in another form. 2This requires that an original or certified copy of a statement by a medical specialist be submitted or, in the event of a mental illness, an original or certified copy of a statement by a licensed psychotherapist. 4The decision shall be taken by the Examination Committee; it defines in a definitive form the amended terms of the examination component or examination prerequisite, in particular a change in processing time; the examination candidate must receive this information in writing. 4It is admissible to place a joint application according to sentence 1 for several examination components or examination prerequisites.

(1a) A restriction of the maximum extension of the processing time for examination and study achievements by the examination and study regulations does not apply to measures for compensation of disadvantages as per paragraph 1.

(2) 1With respect to the observance of deadlines for first-time examination registration, repeat examinations, the grounds for missing examinations or a free-trial examination and failure to observe processing period deadlines set for examination papers, it shall be deemed that a illness of a close relative and the provision of necessary exclusive care are equivalent to the illness of the examination candidate. 2Own children, parents, grand-parents as well as spouses and cohabitating partners and their children shall be considered close relatives.

(3) 1Pregnant students shall not be permitted to take examinations or courses when a doctor's certificate states would endanger the health or life of the pregnant student. 2Furthermore, the safeguarding provisions set down in Sections 3, 4, 6 and 8 of the German Maternity Protection Act³, the time limits and provisions stipulated in Section 1 paragraph 1 or paragraph 3 subparagraph 3 or paragraph 5 in cases of particular hardship as well as Sections 15 and 16 of the Federal Parental Benefit and Parent Leave Act⁴ in their currently amended forms shall apply.

(4) 1No disadvantages for the student may arise from his observance of the provisions set down in paragraph 3. 2The fulfilment of prerequisites set down in paragraphs 1 to 3 must be demonstrated by adequate documents, such as medical certificates, birth certificates, certificates issued by the residents' registration office etc."

I am happy to advise about disadvantage compensations, application process and required certificates (therapeutic and medical statements** according to § 21 Abs. 1 S. 2 APO). Please contact:

Kirsten Brockelmann-Grabo, M. A.	
Head of the Examination Office; advisory member of the examination board for the study programmes of the Faculty of Social Sciences	
Tel.: +49 (0)551/39-7239	E-Mail: kirsten.brockelmann-grabo@zvw.uni-goettingen.de
Platz der Göttinger Sieben 3 (OEC 1st floor) Room: 1.142	Office hours (without appointment): Tues. Thu. 13:30 - 15:00 or by appointment

Please contact me as soon as possible so that the lecturers are informed about the disadvantage compensations in time and the planning and organization of the examination can be guaranteed.

* Disadvantage compensation usually does not apply in cases of acute illness leading to a disability. The aim of the disadvantage compensation is to compensate for a (temporary) impairment of the examining skills, so that the principle of equal treatment can be upheld. Above all, if the form of examination is adjusted, the content of the examination with regard to equal opportunities is not changed (simplified), but an equivalent examination is provided.

**This does not mean diagnostic reports incl. information on medication, etc., but a professional (medical and / or therapeutic) assessment to determine the nature, extent, duration and effects of the impairment.