



Special Needs information leaflet: Dyslexia

1 Studying with dyslexia

Reading and writing disorders are now generally subsumed under the term of *dyslexia*, both in everyday language and in the international literature. According to ICD-10 (International Classification of Diseases), dyslexia is defined as a specific and unequivocal impairment of the development of reading and writing skills. It can manifest itself individually and in very different degrees of severity. Dyslexia does not only make it difficult for sufferers to acquire their own native language but all written languages. The knowledge of its causes is still fragmentary. Dyslexia is independent of intelligence and is usually diagnosed before the start of tertiary education. Students affected by it are mostly granted compensation for their disadvantage as early as the academic stream of secondary education. Correspondingly, compensation for disadvantages is equally possible and justified at university level.

2 Possible support options

Please note:

- The use of technical aids for the visualisation of what has been said prove helpful (particularly for new technical terms and hard words).
- Please do not ask students concerned to read out a text (reading speeds and text comprehension techniques vary).
- Clear indications and structures are helpful (table of contents, overview, content orientation aids, semester schedules).
- Faculty members are invited to hand out written documents (PowerPoint, scripts, etc.) in advance if possible if they are specifically asked to do so.
- The persons concerned will be notified in writing of any adaptations to examination situations after consultation. The procedure is described on the Special Needs website:

www.unisg.ch/de/universitaet/hsgservices/beratung/beratungsstellen/special+needs/nachteilsausgleich

(as a rule, extension of the time frame, a separate room and sometimes, in consultation with the faculty members, a deadline extension for the submission of written work).

- **Some examples of technical aids:**

- *Increased readability through special font:*
 - Open Dyslexic: <https://www.dyslexiefont.com/en/typeface/>; <https://opendyslexic.org>
- *Read, listen, highlight using:*
 - Voice Dream Reader: <http://www.voicedream.com/>
 - Claro Apps: <https://www.claro-apps.com/>
- *Multi-sensory software solutions:*
 - ReadSpeaker: <http://active-education.ch/index.php/de/software>
 - SchreibRex: <http://www.readspeaker.com/de/bildung/losungen/>
- *Dictation software solutions: Dragon Naturally Speaking: <https://www.nuance.com/dragon/dragon-for-pc.html>*
- *Reading Pen: <http://www.examreader.com/#shop-section>*
- *Mindmap Apps: <https://simplemind.eu/>*
- *Mindmap Software: <https://www.matchware.com/de/mind-mapping-software-bildung>*
- *Smart Pen: <https://www.livescribe.com/de/smartpen>; <https://www.livescribe.com>*

3 Contact

If you have any questions and concerns, please contact Diversity & Inclusion, Special Needs specialneeds@unisg.ch; +41 71 224 31 91
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