

A photograph of two young women standing outdoors in front of a wooden fence. They are both holding a dark blue jacket over their heads, as if it is raining. The woman on the left has long blonde hair and is wearing a black top. The woman on the right has reddish hair and is wearing a black t-shirt with an American flag graphic. The background shows green trees and a brick wall.

# MAKE THE DIFFERENCE.

## STUDYING WITH A FUNCTIONAL IMPAIRMENT

**You have a chronic illness or functional impairment. Studying requires a lot of energy. And you often need more time than someone without an impairment. There is a high risk that this will lead to a study delay. Avans University of Applied Sciences wants to offer you the same opportunities as other students wherever possible. It is therefore important that you report to the Student Counsellor's Office before your study programme begins. This will mean that we can look at the possibilities together.**

By 'functional impairment' or 'chronic illness', we mean any physical, sensory or other disorder that interferes with your study progress. Some of these impairments are visible, however the majority cannot be seen from the outside. This might make you feel like you are the only one. Nothing could be further from the truth. Around 10% of all students in higher education have a functional impairment or chronic illness.

The list below shows a number of functional impairments and chronic illnesses by way of an example.

The list is not exhaustive, and your impairment therefore may not appear.

- dyslexia
- ADHD
- ADD
- NLD
- epilepsy
- rheumatism
- ME/CFS
- chronic RSI
- severe migraine
- speech disorders
- problems with organ function
- autism, PDD-NOS, Asperger's syndrome, MCDD
- sensory impairment: visual, hearing or motor
- limited memory, capacity for endurance or ability to concentrate
- psychological problems, for example phobias or chronic depression

### Equal treatment

Your rights are set out in the Equal Treatment of Disabled and Chronically Ill People Act [Wet Gelijke

Behandeling op grond van handicap of chronische ziekte, Wgbh/cz]. This Act also applies during your work placement. And all other activities that form part of your teaching programme. Where possible, we offer tailor-made adjustments. We have also documented this in the Education and Examination Rules for our study programmes. We are required to do this by the government. But, what is more important is that we also want to do it. It is for this reason that we have developed a policy to improve the position of students with a functional impairment.

### **TAILORED SOLUTIONS**

We have a number of standard schemes and facilities, but many functional impairments and chronic illnesses require a tailored approach. Together with you, we will therefore identify and list what you actually need. There are study programmes in which the aspect of safety plays a role. One example is working in a laboratory. We will also go through this together to determine what is feasible.

If despite the measures taken you still experience a severe study delay, you may be entitled to take advantage of a financial scheme. For instance 12 months of additional financial aid for studying.

### **INTAKE**

Make an appointment for an intake interview, preferably plenty of time in advance of starting your study programme. It is important that everything is in place by the start of your study programme in order to limit any study delay. Even if you have already started your study programme, contact the student counsellor as soon as possible.

During the intake you will identify and list any problems that you may encounter together with the student counsellor. You are the expert. Also when it comes to possible solutions. So make sure that you think in advance about which aids, facilities and assistance you need.

You can bring someone with you if you wish. For instance a parent, your peripatetic supervisor or a teacher from your previous educational institution. Also bring along a document showing that you have a functional impairment or a chronic illness, such as a doctor's statement or a copy of part of your medical file. You can request these from your doctor.

### **CONTACT**

For more information, contact one of our student counsellors. They can be contacted via the Student Information Desk at Avans University of Applied Sciences:

088 - 525 75 50.

You can also send an e-mail to [studentinfo@avans.nl](mailto:studentinfo@avans.nl).

### **USEFUL LINKS**

You can find more information about studying with a functional impairment on the following websites:

[handicap-studie.nl](http://handicap-studie.nl)

[mensenrechten.nl](http://mensenrechten.nl)

[iederin.nl](http://iederin.nl)