



## **2012-2013 Student Charter: Studying with a functional limitation**

### **General**

#### *Statutory definition of 'functional limitation'*

According to the relevant legislation, a functional limitation is a chronic or long term disorder which structurally hampers the student in participating in education and/ or taking interim examinations. Students who think they qualify for one of the following regulations can contact the Student Counselling Service.

#### *Students with RSI/CANS, dyslexia*

Students suffering from RSI/CANS (Repetitive Strain Injury/ Complaints of Arms, Neck and/or Shoulders) can contact the student counsellor. If necessary, the student counsellor will refer to the student physician. From the counsellor and student physician, students can obtain specific advice and supervision, especially concerning aids for working with computers or the purchase of personal study aids (such as a mouse pen, speech recognition software or notebook computer).

To obtain a declaration concerning dyslexia (for example required to use 25% extra time for interim examinations), students can contact the student counsellor.

#### *Counselling and supervision*

Students with a functional limitation have the right to specialised supervision by the student counsellors and the study advisers.

The *student counsellors* provide information about all the functional limitation regulations and help with their implementation. They can arrange certain adjustments in education and that some special materials are supplied.

*Study advisers* can help students by modification of scheduling, and information to lecturers. At Wageningen University, there is a Committee for Facilities for Individuals with a Functional Limitation (WVG). Its members include students and staff. The group promotes the interests –of Wageningen UR students and staff with a functional limitation or chronic illness, especially where policy aspects are concerned. For information you can contact the student counsellors.

#### *Housing*

Students with a functional limitation may ask *Idealis* for urgency for housing. *Idealis* may ask for written evidence of the treating medical specialist.

#### *Study financing*

Students who face study delay because of their functional limitation, may -under certain conditions- apply at DUO for a 'provision performance grant', like one extra year performance grant.

For more information, check the DUO website: [www.ib-groep.nl/particulieren](http://www.ib-groep.nl/particulieren). To be able to use the provision, the student must contact a student counsellor.

#### *Functional limitation and the Student Financial Support Regulation (FOS-regeling), Halbe Fine (Profiling Fund)*

Students who are granted a statutory extension of the performance grant period (see above), but incur more study delay due to their disablement, may qualify for additional financial assistance under the Student Financial Support Regulation. The FOS-regulation, under certain conditions, also provides compensation of the *Halbe Fine* for students with a functional limitation.

## ***Participating in education and taking interim examinations***

Based on the Equal Treatment Act, a student with a functional limitation can request special facilities that are required to participate in education and to take interim examinations. In Article 22 of the BSc Education and Examination Regulations and Article 20 of the MSc Education and Examination Regulations is stated that Examining Boards must offer students with a functional limitation a reasonable opportunity to take interim examinations that are adapted as much as possible to their circumstances. Students who require special facilities in order to participate in education or to take interim examinations are advised to contact the student counsellor well ahead.

### *Facilities*

Students with functional limitations may apply for the following adaptations:

1. Students with functional limitation can ask the student counsellor to advise the Examining Board to qualify for specific adaptations to education, the interim examinations and/ or extra facilities to enable them to complete the education successfully.
2. Any changes will be geared as much as possible to the limitations of the individual but may not affect the quality or degree of difficulty of parts of the study programme or an education programme.
3. If necessary, the recommendation from the student counsellor is based on a recent medical statement by a doctor or psychologist.
4. The Examining Board is to decide on the recommendation within four weeks. If the Examining Board agrees, the student counsellor will issue a letter with the adaptations on behalf of the Examining Board. Subsequently, the student can arrange the approved adaptations with the examiner or other officials involved.
5. Adaptations to the education can include changes to:
  - the content (e.g. offering equivalent alternative material),
  - the study material (e.g. more accessible study material),
  - the form (e.g. waiver of compulsory attendance),
  - the period of time (e.g. granting waiver of entry requirements, extension of time allowance for the completion of a component).
6. Adaptations to the method of examination can include changes to:
  - the form (e.g. replacing a written test by an oral test or vice versa, examining the study material in the shape of sub-exams),
  - the period of time (e.g. extra time during interim examinations, greater spread of interim examinations over the examination period),
  - aids which may be allowed during the test (e.g. specific hardware or software, large font size),
  - the location (sitting the interim examination in a separate low-stimulus room).
7. A facility to help successful participation in education can include:
  - availability of specially adapted furniture in examination and education areas,
  - availability of special equipment (e.g. enlarging or braille equipment for blind or visually impaired students, induction loop systems and solo equipment for deaf or hearing impaired students),
  - availability of special computer facilities (e.g. speech recognition or speech synthesis software),
  - availability of a rest area.

If it has been determined that the student, due to a functional limitation and despite adaptations and extra facilities, is not able to complete the programme in the official duration, the faculty has undertaken to enable the student to complete the study programme and the time allowance is no more than twice the official length.

### *Purchase of technical study aids*

The costs of aids to allow students with a functional limitation to participate in education can often be reimbursed via the Reintegration Act (REA - Wet op de (RE)integratie Arbeidsgehandicapten). The UWV (Employees Insurance Administration Office, [www.uwv.nl](http://www.uwv.nl)) is responsible for implementing this procedure, also for students. If a request is not granted, specialised private foundations can be

approached. The foundations may be found on the website of Foundation 'handicap en studie' ([www.handicap-studie.nl](http://www.handicap-studie.nl)). The student counsellor can give advice and support in the application. The costs of aids that are not covered by insurance, UWV or private foundations, may partially be reimbursed by the university. Students who want to ask for a reimbursement from the university should contact the student counsellor.

#### *Wajong grant*

A student qualifies for the Wajong Act (Facilities for Disabled Young People Act) if he:

- is incapacitated on the day that he comes to the age of 17;
- became incapacitated after the age of 17 and studied during the year before for at least six months.

It is possible to have a Wajong grant in addition to a performance grant. There is no age limit to the grant. However, if you are a student and if you are entitled to a performance grant and if your Wajong-application has been submitted after 2009, your Wajong grant will be limited to 25% of the minimum wage.

DUO views the Wajong grant as extra income. If the maximum limit of extra income set by DUO is exceeded, the student is no longer entitled to study financing during the relevant academic year.

A Wajong grant must be requested from the UWV (Employees Insurance Administration Office, [www.uwv.nl](http://www.uwv.nl)).

More information about extra income and study financing can be found in the DUO brochure 'Extra income and your study'.

For complaints about decisions, the Legal Affairs Office of the University offers a complaint procedure.