



# Students with disabilities at the University of Vienna

Annual Report 2012



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# : Foreword

## The annual report 2012

This report gives an overview of services that have been implemented for students with disabilities in 2012. Next to activities of the „Accessible Studying“-Team there are also initiatives of other departments of the University of Vienna outlined.

Annual report as pdf with active links:  
<http://studentpoint.at/barrierefrei>

**Lukas Ertl**

Student assistant

It gives me pleasure to contribute to important projects and events which enable equal studying opportunities for students with disabilities.

My main tasks in 2012 were the coordination of a note exchange service, the evaluation and description of induction loops in lecture halls of the University of Vienna and the updating of the website “Barrierefrei studieren”.

Even though there are still a lot of measures to be taken I am proud that we have already reached a lot.

## : Foreword



**MMag.ª Birgit Virtbauer**

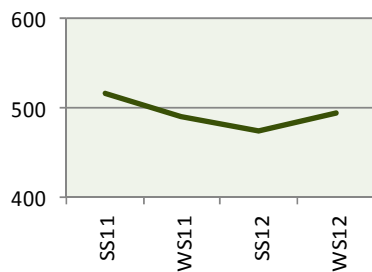
Disability officer

The end of a year provides a good opportunity to look back at the things achieved: I am delighted that we accomplished to try new things – like PC-workstations or a coaching group for students with disabilities – and to successfully pursue established projects – like the Student Advisory Board or the website „Inclusive Teaching“ („Barrierefreie Lehre“).

# : Facts & Figures

## Number of disabled students

### Students with a remission of tuition fee



Development in the last 4 semesters

At the moment students with disabilities are only registered by the data system if they apply for remission of the tuition fee due to a disability or an illness/impairment.

Therefore it has to be assumed that the actual number of disabled students is higher.

In the summer semester (SS) 2011 474 students applied for remission of the tuition fee, in the winter semester (WS) 12/13 there were 474 applications. The slightly lower number of the summer semester can be ascribed to the general remission of the fees that semester in whole Austria. This means that there were no new applications, just „old“ continuing applications counted.

Slightly more than half of the students who got a remission due to a disability or an illness/impairment are women (53%).

In comparison, students with and without disabilities largely choose the same study programmes.

The most common study programmes of students with disabilities in WS 12/13 were:

- 16% law
- 14% psychology
- 9% history
- 8% philosophy
- 6% theatre, film and media studies

# : Facts & Figures

## Counselling activities

### Monthly overview, types of impairments



In 2012 the Disability Officer conducted 386 counsellings compared to 372 in 2011.

The figure on the right shows that the counselling frequency is highest around the beginning of the winter semester.

The counselling service was made use of more frequently by women (56%) than by men (44%).

Counselling is broken down into types of impairments (numerous denominations possible) below:

- 18% mental health issues
- 14% specific learning problems
- 13% visual impairment
- 13% impairment of gross motor skills
- 12% no declaration
- 12% chronic illness
- 9% impairment of fine motor skills
- 8% hearing impairment
- 1% acute illness
- 1% other

# : Facts & Figures

## Counselling activities

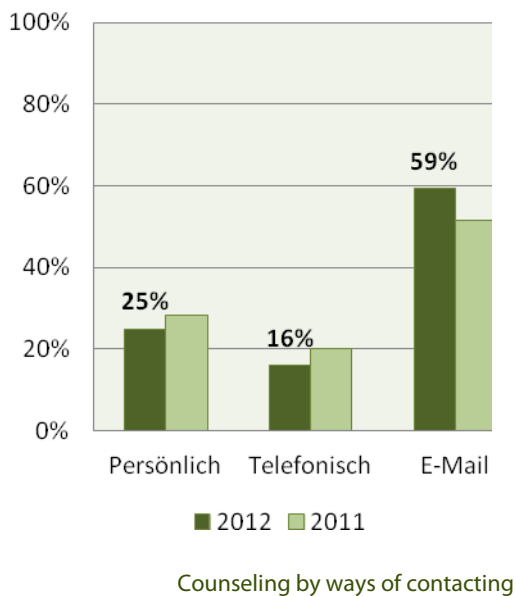
### Topics of the students

The students adressed the Disability Officer with the following issues:

- 28% exam accomodation
- 24% planning the semester/ study programme
- 13% tuition fee, remission of tuition fee
- 9% financial supprt
- 8% other requests (none of the mentioned categories)
- 7% appointments
- 5% accessibility of facilities
- 4% admission regulations
- 2% family allowance (Familienbeihilfe)
- 2% study allowance (Studienbeihilfe)

An average counselling lasted 14 minutes, 45 percent of the counsellings were first contacts with students.

25% of the students came to personal counselling, 59% were reached via email and 16% via telephone (see figure on the left). The relative amount of email-contacts increased compared to last year whereas the two other ways of contact decreased.





# : Participation



## Student Advisory Board

### Participation for students with disabilities

The Student Advisory Board "Accessible Studying" („Barrierefrei studieren“) allows students with disabilities to discuss and implement the improvement of services for this student group.

During 2012 the board met four times and implemented the following projects:

- ▶ Photo project „Studying with Disabilities“ (S13)
- ▶ Financing the note exchange service (S17)
- ▶ Financial support for the layout of the brochure „Barrierefrei studieren“ (in progress)
- ▶ Filter function for financial support services, sign language videos for the new website (in progress)

### Links & further information

Student advisory board „Barrierefrei studieren“  
[www.studentpoint.at/beirat](http://www.studentpoint.at/beirat) (German only)

# : Information & communication



## Inclusive teaching - 1

### Website for lecturers

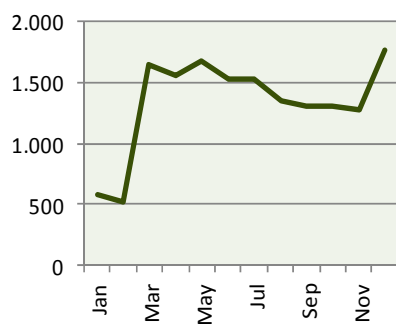
Back in 2010 there was a website for lecturers installed where they could get information about the accessible organization of lectures, learning material and exams.

This website was promoted with a folder that was financed by the student advisory board at the turn of the year 2011/12. All 10.000 lecturers at the University of Vienna received this folder.

The access rates to the website (see figure below) show that dispatching the folder tripled the number of website-visitors. At the moment there are 1.500 unique visitors on average per month.

### Links & further information

Website „Barrierefreie Lehre“  
<http://barrierefreielehre.univie.ac.at/> (German only)



Access rates to website 2012

# : Information & communication

## Inclusive teaching - 2

### Further information for lecturers



The „Manual for Lecturers“ („Handbuch für Lehrende“) of the University of Vienna contains a chapter about inclusive teaching and the right of exam accommodation. The manual is utilized in lecturer trainings and is going to be newly edited and published by the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in cooperation with the Division for Teaching Affairs and Student Services at the beginning of 2013.



The bureau of the Studienpraeses developed an information sheet in cooperation with the disability officer which outlines the internal processes as well as data security issues concerning exam accomodation.

### Links & furhter informationen

Manual for lecturers

[http://ctl.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user\\_upload/elearning/Handbuch\\_Lehrende.pdf](http://ctl.univie.ac.at/fileadmin/user_upload/elearning/Handbuch_Lehrende.pdf) (German only)

Infosheet

<http://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/durchs-studium/pruefungswesen/prfg-abw/> (German only)

# : Information & communication

## Infomails

Students with disabilities received eight infomails in 2012 which informed them about improvements and news. Students who do not get the newsletter can subscribe it here:

<https://lists.univie.ac.at/mailman/listinfo/chancengleich-studieren>

## BeSt<sup>3</sup> - Informationfair

A presentation and counselling were offered for prospective students with disabilities at the Job, Training and Education Fair "BeSt<sup>3</sup>" in Vienna.

<http://bestinfo.at>

## UNILeben – Welcome fair

**UNILeben**  
Die Willkommensveranstaltung

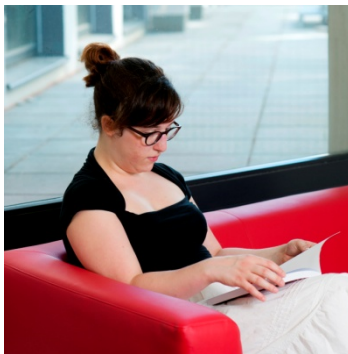
The Disability Officer offered counselling and a presentation about exam accommodation in the course of the welcome fair „UNILeben“ at the beginning of winter and summer semester.

<http://unileben.univie.ac.at>

# : Visibility

## Students with disabilities

### 10 photo series



The desire to make students with disabilities more visible in publications and on websites of the University of Vienna was the starting point of a cooperation between the Student Advisory Board (S9) and the department of public relations.

After intense discussions about the possibilities to portray persons with disabilities in the most respectful way and to show non-visible disabilities there was a concept developed.

In the end 10 photo series were assigned which are now available in the pool of pictures of the Department of Public Relations.

The pictures in this report all derive from those shootings.

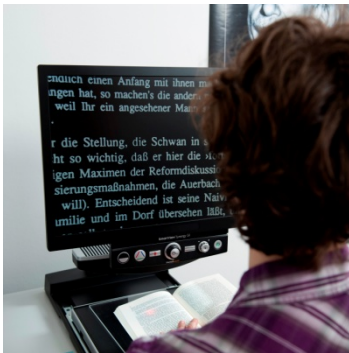
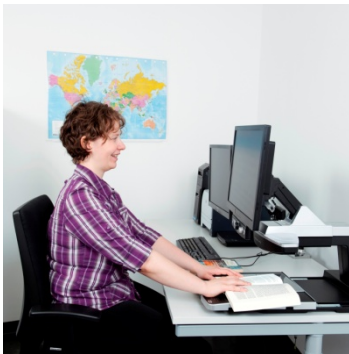
Thanks again to the students for their courage and effort!

### Links & further information

Public relations  
<http://public.univie.ac.at>

Student Advisory Board  
[www.studentpoint.at/beirat](http://www.studentpoint.at/beirat)

# : Studying



## PC-workstations

### 2 accessibly equipped workstations

As desired by students there were two PC-workstations installed. The equipment is supposed to enable accessible working:

- ▶ dimmable, flickerfree lamps, automatically height-adjustable table
- ▶ 22" screen on a swivel-arm, keyboard with big letters
- ▶ Screenreader JAWS (text-in-speech) and magnifier MAGic
- ▶ Scanner; printing for free; screen-reading device at one of the workstations

The project was realized in cooperation with the Disability Officer, the Vienna University Computer Center and the University Library. Thanks to uniability and the Austrian Association in Support of the Blind and Visually Impaired („Hilfsgemeinschaft für Blinde und Sehschwache Österreichs“) for their friendly and professional support.

### Links & further information

Information about the workstations  
<https://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/zum-studium/barrierefrei-studieren/pc/> (German only)

# : Studying

## Purchase of Wav-Recorders

On behalf of the Student Advisory Board (p9) two recorders were purchased. Those can be lent to students for one semester if they pay a deposit.

<http://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/zum-studium/barrierefrei-studieren/studienorganisation/videoaudio-aufnahmen/> (German only)

## Admission regulations

Like last year students with disabilities were excepted of the admission regulations of the psychology bachelor programme.

14 students accepted this offer due to disability or illness/impairment.

<http://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/zum-studium/barrierefrei-studieren/prfg-aufn/> (German only)

## Accessible student hostels

Lukas Ertl updated the list of accessible student hostels. An overview can be downloaded at the website.

<http://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/zum-studium/barrierefrei-studieren/behinderungsspezifisches/motorik/>

# : Studying

## Workstation for blind students

Books and notes are transformed into accessible files at the workstation for blind students at the University Library. In 2012 there were 72 documents made accessible for six students.

<http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/blindenarbeitsplatz.html>  
(German only)

## GESTU -



GESTU, a project for hearing-impaired students of all Viennese universities which is coordinated at the Technical University of Vienna was successfully continued. In SS 12 and WS 12/13 there were 12 students of the University of Vienna participating in the project.

[www.gestu.at/teilnehmer/index.html](http://www.gestu.at/teilnehmer/index.html) (German only)

## Cooperation with counselling service

Psychologische  
Beratungsstelle  
für Studierende  
Wien



The Disability Officer can make appointments for first interviews at the Psychological Counselling Service for Students (Psychologische Beratungsstelle für Studierende) in Vienna since March 2012.

<http://www.studentenberatung.at/studentenberatung/de/wien.htm>



# : Studying



## Note exchange service

The note exchange service which was introduced in WS 11/12 supports six students with disabilities at the moment. The uploading of notes was made simpler after feedback from students, the response of fellow students concerning the number of notes is usually high.

[www.studentpoint.at/mitschrift](http://www.studentpoint.at/mitschrift) (German only)

## Grant

The University of Vienna announced its grant to support students with disabilities for the third time in October 2012. 14 students received each 1.000 € out of foundational funds.

<https://studienpraeses.univie.ac.at/stipendien/stipendium-zur-besonderen-unterstuetzung-behinderter-studierender/> (German only)

# : Infrastructure

## Alterations main building

### Increase in accessibility

The heritage-protected main building at Universitätsring 1 was made more accessible and student-friendly during the last months.

Two new lifts in courts III and IV facilitate the accessibility to the left and right wing of the building.

The main staircases 1 and 2 were equipped with handrails.

In the course of establishing two new accessible cafés, a new toilet for mobility-impaired persons was built in the AudiMax-corridor. The toilet can be opened with an Eurokey.

A new stair lift leads to Student Point and the Admission Office.

### Links & further information

Project and construction management  
<http://pbm.univie.ac.at/brandschutz-universitaetsring-1/> (German only)

# : Infrastructure

## New location

### New building at Währinger Straße 29



© Arnberger

A new building was opened in October at Währinger Straße 29. It is home to the Faculty of Computer Science and the Department of Communication Studies.

The building is fully accessible, all floors can be reached via lifts. The latter are equipped with braille keys and an acoustic announcement of each level. The guidance system on the floor for blind persons helps orientate oneself in the building.

There have been induction loops installed in lecture halls 1 (1st basement), 2 and 3 (1st and 2nd floor) as well as seminar rooms 2 - 5 and 7 – 8.

Handrails in the staircase have integrated tactile markings, on each floor there is a toilet for mobility-impaired persons.

## Links & further information

Project and construction management  
<http://pbm.univie.ac.at/waehringer-strasse-29/>  
(German only)

## : Infrastructure



### Guidance system in Juridicum

The Juridicum (Schottenbastei 10-16) was equipped with a tactile guidance system on the floor on the ground floor and 1<sup>st</sup> basement in summer. The Facility and Resources Management was responsible for the installation.

<http://rrm.univie.ac.at>

### Bookscanner

The University Library purchased bookscanners that enable the scanning of documents up to the size of DIN A3. Scans can be saved to USB-sticks which especially helps visually impaired students. You will find those devices in the main library, the special library of the Department of Communication Studies and Computer Science, Art History and in the Archive of the Library.

[http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/hauptbibliothek/neu\\_buchscanner\\_an\\_der\\_ha.html](http://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/hauptbibliothek/neu_buchscanner_an_der_ha.html) (German only)

### Induction loops



The Facility and Resources Management of the University of Vienna has equipped three more rooms with induction loops (HS I NIG, HS 33 and 41 in the main building), so that there are 22 rooms now that offer ideal conditions for hearing impaired persons.

<http://studentpoint.univie.ac.at/zum-studium/barrierefrei-studieren/behinderungsspezifisches/hoeren/>

## : Networks students



### Coaching group

#### Support and exchange

The coaching group „Stronger Together!“ (“Gemeinsam stärker!“) was founded in WS 12/13 for students with physical impairments of all Viennese universities.

It should enable exchange about questions concerning the daily life of studying with disabilities.

The group is led by Dr. Gottfried Großbointner, staff member of the Psychological Counseling Service for Students in Vienna.

The initiative was implemented in cooperation with the Viennese Disability Officers, the Austrian Students’ Union of the University of Vienna and the Technical University Vienna as well as the Psychological Counselling Service for Students in Vienna.

The group did not take place in WS due to lacking demand.

#### Links & further information

Info about coaching group  
[www.studentpoint.at/gemeinsamstaerker](http://www.studentpoint.at/gemeinsamstaerker)  
(German only)

# : Professional networking

## 4.10.: uniability-meeting



Uniability – the Association of Persons concerned with Students with Disabilities at Austrian Universities – meets twice a year for professional networking.

[www.uniability.org](http://www.uniability.org) (German only)

## 22.10.: “Diversity as a chance”

This was the theme of a convention at the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna about „inclusive strategies for accessible studying and working in the tertiary field of education“.

<http://www.boku.ac.at/21113.html> (German only)

## 27.10.-6.11.: Visit from Ethiopia



A colleague from the Addis Ababa University visited the Disability Officer in the course of the research project RESPOND-HER (Responding to Poverty and Disability through Higher Education and Research) More activities of the project can be found here:

<http://respond-her.univie.ac.at>