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 Austrian
Development Cooperation



**universität
wien**

Students with Disabilities at the University of Vienna

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The University of Vienna



The University of Vienna

- Oldest university in the German-speaking world
- One of the largest in Central Europe
- 88.000 students, 9.400 employees
- 180 study programmes

Studying in Austria

- **Admission for all students from all countries**
admission process rather complicated for non-EU-citizens
- **Admission regulations** for 3 study programmes
(entrance examination)

Students with health problems: Austria

Students in Austria who...

...declare to have a disability	0,9%
...declare to be chronically ill	12,1%
...have other health problems	7,7%
	20,7%

[Bericht zur sozialen Lage der Studierenden, 2009](#)

SWDs: University of Vienna

- ~ 500 registered students with disabilities (0,5% of all students)
- 57% women, 43% men
- Favourite study programmes:

17%	law	(1 st)
14%	psychology	(5 th)
10%	history	(2 nd)

Support at the University of Vienna

- **Student Point: counselling**
Disability officer part-time
+ 2 student coworkers part-time
- **University library: adaptation of learning material**
2 staff members full-time
- **HR departement: courses, coaching**
- **Austrian students' Union: counselling**

Disability officer: Tasks

- Personal Counselling
- Newsletter, website(s), mailing-lists, forum
- Coordination of disability-related projects, eg Student Advisory Board
- Consultancy for other university-departements

Topics at Consultation Disability Officer

- Tuition Fees & Remission
- Organization of semester and studying
- Right of exam accomodation



Support: University of Vienna

- Exam accommodations
- Grant for students with disabilities
(announcement 1*/year)
- Remission of tuition fee (363€ per semester)

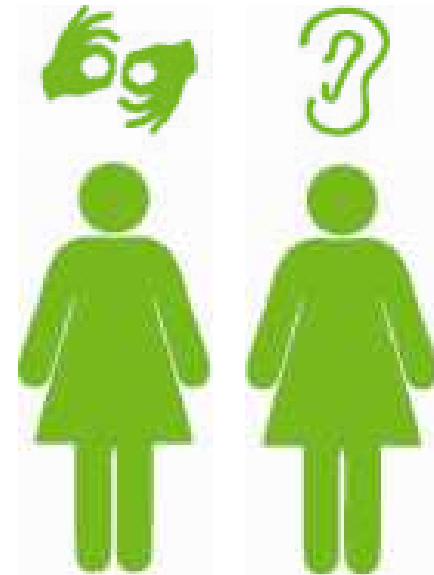
Students with visual impairments

- Adaptation of documents
- Tactile orientation system for blind students
- Accessible websites



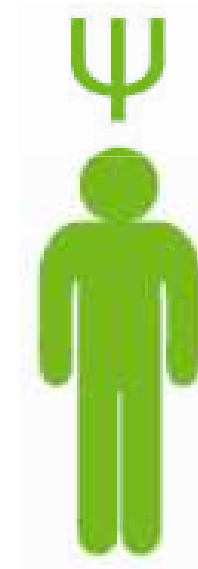
Students with hearing impairments

- Induction loops in some lecture halls
- Organization of exchange of notes
- No funding of sign language interpreters, realtime captioning or note-takers



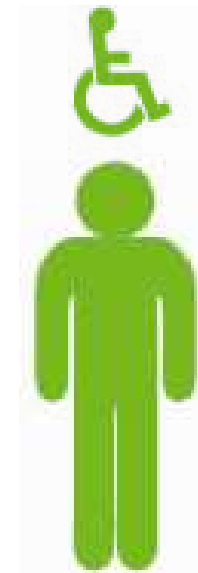
Students with mental health conditions

- Exam accommodations
- Psychological Counselling Center offers support for free
- Low awareness



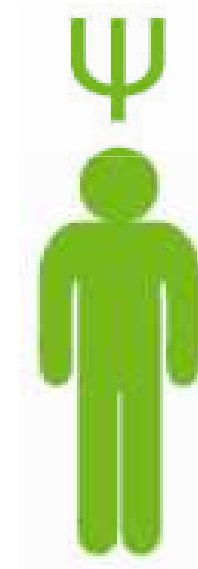
Students with Mobility Impairments

- Accessibility of buildings
- Accessible rooms in student halls
- Accessible public transport system



Students with Specific Learning Disabilities

- ADHD, dyslexia, Aspergers
- Low awareness
- Few support possibilities



Federal support system

- **Family allowance, study grants**
special regulations for students with disabilities
- **Grant of the Austrian Students' Union**
- **Technical Assistance**
- **Personal Assistance**

Student Advisory Board

- **SWDs can**
 - Initiate new projects to enhance accessibility, inclusion
 - Evaluate existing projects
 - Get an insight into structure of an HEI

Student Advisory Board

- 8 members (4 SWDs)
- Meetings about 3*/semester
- Initiatives so far:
 - Website for lecturers (german only)
<http://barrierefreielehre.univie.ac.at>
 - Infoclip for student beginners
 - Folder for lecturers

Challenges

- **Low awareness among lecturers, fellow students**
- **Accessibility of buildings**
- **Deaf students:**
Funding of sign language interpreters
- **Strategic planning**

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