



## Special Needs information leaflet: Chronic Illness

### 1 Studying with a chronic illness

Chronic illnesses increasingly also occur among juveniles and young adults. Current research results reveal that these illnesses are sufficiently significant to merit attention. Basically, chronic illnesses are divided up into somatic and mental illnesses. Chronic somatic illnesses are dysfunctions

- of an organ system (e.g. cardiovascular organs),
- of the metabolism (e.g. diabetes mellitus),
- of the immune system (eg. with allergies), or tumour diseases.

Chronic mental illnesses include ADHS, depression, obsessive-compulsive disorders, borderline personality disorders, eating disorders and psychoses.

Chronic illnesses do not only occur temporarily but last for months, years or even lifelong. A consistent adaptation of one's way of life and appropriate management of therapeutic measures are indispensable.

When a chronic illness is treated well, academic performance is normally not impaired by a chronic illness.

However, the illness may cause tiredness and lack of concentration and make learning difficult at time. Stress situations such as examinations can favour the occurrence of chronic illnesses.

### 2 Possible effects

- 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](http://www.unisg.ch/de/universitaet/hsgservices/beratung/beratungsstellen/special+needs/nachteilsausgleich)

### 3 Contact

If you have any questions and concerns, please contact the Special Needs Advice Center:

Special Needs Advice Center; [specialneeds@unisg.ch](mailto:specialneeds@unisg.ch); +41 71 224 31 91

or: [nachteilsausgleich@unisg.ch](mailto:nachteilsausgleich@unisg.ch); +41 71 224 22 23.

The above information refers to the following source, where you can also find further information:

<http://www.rheumaliga.ch/Rheuma>

[http://www.lungenliga.ch/de/krankheiten-ihre-folgen/asthma/symptome.html?gclid=CJ2U8MST18wCFUE\\_Gwodtq4LfA](http://www.lungenliga.ch/de/krankheiten-ihre-folgen/asthma/symptome.html?gclid=CJ2U8MST18wCFUE_Gwodtq4LfA)

<http://www.epi.ch/index.php>

<http://www.boulimie-anorexie.ch/>

Please note: there is a separate information leaflet on diabetes mellitus.