

Information for Physicians and Other Care Providers Issuing Certificates

Medical certificates are required to grant students with **acute illnesses** modified conditions of study and/or examination. Medical certificates are always specific to the described and certified **individual** situation.

The certificate, or expert opinion, verifies the acute illness and describes its effects on the student's ability to carry out their studies, including examinations and coursework requirements, and the measures necessary from a medical point of view to accommodate the student's situation.

1. The certificate should be up to date, include a stamp of the specialist physician's practice, the name and signature of the treating physician and the date of issue.
2. It should describe the student's functional limitations with regard to study and examinations in terms of perception, cognition, behavior and physical functionality with respect to the pathology of the specific illness.
3. In particular, it should describe the developmental trend of the acute illness and recommend suitable support measures for studies, as well as concrete suggestions for appropriate measures to accommodate the student's special needs during examinations and the process of writing the final thesis.

As a rule, it is not possible to grant reasonable accommodation in the case of acute illness. Here, such measures as withdrawing from examinations and/or extending or suspending deadlines for requirements can be considered. In such cases, a medical certificate is required to verify that there is good reason for the student's inability to take part in an exam or to meet specified deadlines. According to higher education law, the responsible examination body determines whether there is good reason. It is, therefore, imperative that the certificate contain a precise and medically qualified description of the impairment to the student's ability to perform due to acute illness on the day of examination, or in the specified period. This description serves as the basis for decisions of the examination body on good reason. A concrete diagnosis can but need not be indicated. However, general proclamations of the student's incapacity to take part in examinations or other aspects of study are not sufficient.

Thank you for your support in following these guidelines. For further information, contact departmental student advising or the examination board of your degree program.