

Information sheet, limited mobility

Tips for faculty members and advisors

Students with a disability or chronic illness have special needs which cannot always be recognised and interpreted at first sight. This information sheet is intended to provide you with specialist knowledge for open and sympathetic communication in your dealings with the students concerned, and to contribute towards understanding and improving the situation of students with impairments.

Diagnosis and functional description

Mobility can be limited in a wide variety of ways, both temporarily and constantly. Motor skills may be impaired by an accident, an illness or by a disability from birth. For example, a malposition of the spinal column can make everyday student life difficult; wheelchair-bound students often face specific challenges; a complicated fracture of the hand can prevent students from taking notes; cerebral palsy can impair the sense of balance, etc. In every situation, a personal meeting and the clarification of the specific support requirements of the person concerned is the most important step towards the creation of framework conditions for successful studies with equal opportunities. There are many different points to be taken into consideration: issues ranging from coordination problems with writing to the accessibility of rooms can make studying more difficult.

Effects in the academic environment and on academically relevant activities

- ETH Zurich is largely wheelchair-accessible, and almost all the rooms on the entire campus can be reached by lifts and ramps. With regard to the buildings in the city centre, in particular, it is worth contacting the Campus Info in advance so that the caretakes can show the simplest routes to you.
- Wheelchair-accessible parking spaces and barrier-free toilets can be found throughout the campus.
- If possible, try to organise a room which enables people with limited mobility – and wheelchair users in particular – to choose a place (barrier-free places at the back and front).
- Try to organise a room where there are both catering facilities and a wheelchair parking area, as well as a barrier-free toilet nearby.
- People with limited mobility may be excluded from participation in study trips or internships because the necessary arrangements have not been made. Try to make such trips barrier-free or, if possible, look for equivalent alternatives.

Effects on performance assessments

Students who are affected by limited mobility have the option of submitting an application for special arrangements with regard to **performance assessments** (information at www.ethz.ch/disability).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the staff at the Counselling and Coaching Centre. [Contact persons – student portal | ETH Zurich](#).