



## Special Needs information leaflet: Hearing Impairment

### 1 Studying with a hearing impairment

The term *hearing impairment* is used for all forms of impairment in connection with hearing: deafness, hardness of hearing, hearing-visual impairment and loss of hearing. It covers various degrees of hearing impairment. Many people affected are now equipped with hearing aids or hearing implants (cochlear implants). Hearing is an essential part of our lives; our communication is based on it. It is all the more important that the relevant support can be ensured. People with hearing problems are still severely disadvantaged in their studies. Hearing impairment is an invisible disability. Accordingly, the barriers for people with hearing impairment must be identified carefully. People who were born deaf or lost their hearing before language acquisition have different problems from people who lost their hearing after they learned to speak.

### 2 Possible support options

- Acoustic conditions can be improved by equipping a lecture room with an audio induction loop or a mobile hearing system. An induction loop is a technical facility which enables people with hearing aids to receive audio signals such as verbal contributions in lecture and seminar rooms wirelessly and without interference through their hearing aids. As soon as the speaker uses the microphone made available for this purpose, the signals are transmitted accordingly. Further advance enquiries and measures are not required. The following rooms are equipped with such a facility: 01-011, 01-012, 01-013, 01-014, Aula
- Background noise is distracting (please close windows, ask people in the classroom to be quiet, etc.)
- Ideally, documents (scripts, transparencies) are handed out to visually impaired students in advance. This will make it easier to understand things during the actual course.
- Please speak at a normal volume, at a medium pace and clearly.
- It is helpful to visualise what has been said in the form of graphs, facial expressions and gestures, and to write new technical terms on the blackboard or on transparencies (prevents the misunderstanding of new words).
- Students who lip-read cannot take notes at the same time.
- Depending on the degree of impairment, however, students affected are unable, or not completely able, to understand what is said even with technical aids – a sign-language interpreter or a speech-to-text interpreter is required. If this should be the case, the situation will have to be clarified through Special Needs in good time.
- 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.