

ArtEZ University of the Arts

Studying with an impediment

Do you have a study impediment or a disability?

A study impediment such as a disability or a chronic illness does not have to obstruct your progress at ArtEZ. With the right guidance along with our emphasis on small-scale education and special facilities, most of our students with study impediments are able to complete their courses successfully!

ArtEZ prefers to think in terms of opportunities rather than impediments, and it is on this basis that its policy is formulated. This involves allowing space for extra support and/or adjustments wherever these are either necessary or feasible, and provided that they do not affect the level of education.

Whenever extra support and/or adjustments are requested, ArtEZ always checks whether the student counsellor has been informed about the study impediment in advance. Each new student receives a form in which you can fill in information about your impediment. Automatically you will be invited to schedule an appointment with the student counsellor. (See below: 'Intake procedure') In cases where the impediment occurs at a late stage on the course you inform the Institute about your impediment as soon as possible.

What is a disability?

A disability can take different forms. It may vary from a motor, visual or hearing impairment to learning disorders, chronic illnesses and psychological issues. The disability is generally chronic. Moreover, most disabilities cannot be seen by other people. ArtEZ works in accordance with the Dutch Equal Treatment Act for Disability and Chronic Disease. This means that - within reason and by means of, for example, adjustments - you will be given the opportunity to complete your course.

What is a study impediment?

Study impediments may vary substantially. The fact is that not only disabilities but also other "situations" can impede your course progress. Here, you should think in terms of, for instance, difficult family circumstances, playing a sport at an extremely high level and pregnancy. However, it is important to bear in mind that your impediment can only be taken into account on your course if you inform the student counsellor about it as soon as it occurs.

Study impediment and suitability

The nature of your impediment will be decisive when determining whether a course is suitable for you. Here, "suitability" is viewed as encompassing a period right up until after you pass your degree and are embarking on a career that your course has prepared you for. For example, the Dance Course makes considerable demands on your strength and stamina. For Theatre, you will need both physical and mental confidence. The Fashion Course involves working at an extremely high speed, as does the fashion world. Naturally, good hearing is essential for the Music courses. And, whereas the various Art & Design courses require effective communication and personal PR, good eyesight is essential for the Art & Design in Education Course. Moreover, every ArtEZ course places a great deal of emphasis on self-reflection and the ability to organise your work on your own.

ArtEZ will offer additional support and/or adjustments provided that your impediment does not affect the ultimate level that you will accomplish or your ability to practise the profession for which you were educated.

What kind of support can ArtEZ offer?

Support through course supervision

During the course, you can discuss your personal well being with your mentor/course co-ordinator or study career counsellor. Once a course delay becomes likely, he or she will consult the student counsellor so as to be able to support you in the process of requesting either an alternative study plan or temporary exemption from the "80% attendance regulation". NB: This will only be granted if it is absolutely necessary and your request has also been approved by the Examination Committee.

Support through intensified personal supervision

You can contact the student counsellor at your location for a confidential support consultation. She can also introduce you to external facilitators, who do not have waiting lists. In addition, if your impediment results in

a course delay, she will be able to assist you in the administrative process of applying for extra student grants or loans and/or appealing to the Profileringfonds for additional financial support if you are about to do your finals.

Support through special facilities

Extra examination time and large-font texts are standard facilities for students with diagnosed dyslexia or an attention disorder. Students with an autism spectrum disorder, who embark on their course without the support of their own, individual supervisors, are advised to register with an autism coach as soon as their course commences. "Tailor-made facilities", such as adapted furniture or a number of specialised coaching sessions during the course's higher years, may occasionally be funded, provided that the course takes this decision in consultation with the student counsellor. Expertise is also available in the form of software for students with dyslexia.

Access to ArtEZ buildings

ArtEZ Enschede has complete access for wheelchairs. However, if you are going to study at Zwolle or Arnhem, we recommend that you request an appointment to discuss this subject in advance. The fact that these courses are held in listed buildings means that there are places where accessibility is less than ideal.

If you have impaired hearing, it's important to know that there are no loop systems at ArtEZ. However, this is no reason for deciding not to attend the frequently small-scale courses at our institutes, simply that you should first consult the relevant student counsellor!

The Intake Procedure

We would again like to emphasise the importance of informing the student counsellor as soon as possible about your study impediment. This means that facilities can be arranged on time so that you will not experience any unnecessary delays.

Privacy policy

ArtEZ works in accordance with the Dutch Data Protection Act. Sensitive personal information is stored internally with the Student Counsellor in a file that is strictly confidential. Only when appropriate, will sections of this file be shared with your course contact person. In addition, the Examination Committee will exclusively receive brief reports and explanations of your impediment. This will occur in the strictest confidence and only where the procedure prescribes it.