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Cases of hardship

We reserve up to 5 percent of admissions for cases of exceptional hardship. If this quota has not been exceeded, every recognized hardship application will immediately result in an offer of admission, without consideration of the admission criteria.

Not every impairment, even if it is perceived as severe, justifies admission as a case of hardship. The reasons (health, social, family-related) why such an applicant cannot be expected to wait even one semester for admission have to be extremely serious. Few persons are in such an **exceptional situation** and are eligible for this application.

Acceptable reasons for an application

In the following **exemplary** cases, the application can usually be approved:

1. **Special health circumstances** that justify immediate admission and are documented by a medical certificate.
 - 1.1 Illness with a tendency to worsen, which will result in a high probability of not being able to cope with the strains of completing this study programme in the future.
 - 1.2 Impairment through illness; professional rehabilitation can only be ensured by immediate university admission, as the impairment makes it impossible to bridge the waiting period with a meaningful alternative.
 - 1.3 Physical disability restricts applicant to a narrow vocational field; the intended study programme will probably make a successful rehabilitation possible.
 - 1.4 Previous studies or profession had to be given up for health reasons. These reasons make it impossible to bridge the waiting period with a meaningful alternative.
 - 1.5 Physical disability; the disability prevents any other reasonable activity until university admission is granted.
 - 1.6 Illness restricts the applicant's career choice or work activity, and it is thus impossible to bridge the waiting period with a meaningful alternative.
2. **Special family or social circumstances** requiring immediate admission (suitable documentation required).
3. **Ethnic German resettlers** who have begun a study programme in the home country that corresponds to the selected study programme. (official certificate of ethnic resettlement

and a certificate from the university confirming that the student was enrolled in a corresponding programme in the country of origin).

4. **Earlier admission to** the above-mentioned study programme that applicants could not accept for compelling reasons for which they were not responsible (in particular: illness) (documentation of reasons as well as previous letter of admission required).
5. **Special social or family reasons that make an immediate change of location absolutely necessary;** reasons that could already have been stated in the process that led to the admission of the applicant will not be taken into account (documentation of current enrolment in the desired study programme at a German university and documentation of the reasons for the change of location).

Insufficient reasons for an application

In the following exemplary cases, the application will generally NOT be approved, unless there are further exceptional circumstances:

Regarding 1.

- Studying only possible at that location because home care and assistance are required due to a pre-existing condition.
- Health reasons made it necessary to give up previous studies or work; however, it is possible to bridge the waiting period.
- Restriction in choice of occupation due to illness; however, it is possible to bridge the waiting period.

Regarding 2.

- Studying cannot be financed from private funds.
- Option of private financing of studies will no longer be available in the future if start of studies is further delayed.
- Financing studies is limited by contract or other legal transaction (e.g. farm transfer contract, contract of inheritance, will) and no longer secured if admission to the intended study programme is further delayed.
- Receipt of orphan's allowance is granted while in education only up to a certain age, and the orphan's allowance can no longer be claimed if the start of studies is further delayed.
- Pension payments from the German armed forces are only provided for a limited time.
- Applicant has received study assistance from public funds, orphan's allowance, pension or similar income while enrolled in an alternative study programme, and this time is counted toward the time for which such income is granted.

- Financing of alternative study programme through own work because the applicant wants to receive study assistance from public funds only after being admitted to the desired study programme (so the time is not counted toward the limited period for which this income is granted).
 - Financing of alternative study programme through loan; the pressure to pay back the loan becomes too high if admission to the desired study programme is further delayed.
 - Working spouse pays maintenance.
 - The spouse who pays maintenance has to stop working.
 - The spouse is also still in education; the applicant thinks an immediate start of studies is required due to the financial situation.
 - Widowed or divorced applicants who want to secure the future livelihood of their own dependent children by completing a study programme.
 - Financial difficulties of parents.
 - Applicants who want to support parents who have financial problems, or provide for siblings as soon as possible.
 - Applicant is an orphan or half-orphan.
 - Applicant is married.
 - Applicant has one or more children.
 - Father or mother or both parents are ill or severely disabled.
 - Father or mother or both parents are ethnic German resettlers, displaced, politically or racially persecuted persons or refugees from the former GDR.
 - Siblings with physical disability, need for care or who are unable to work.
 - Coming from a large family; all or almost all siblings are still in education.
 - Parents, siblings or other dependants will need financial support soon.
 - Potential disadvantages in taking over a medical practice or pharmacy if waiting period continues:
 - for the applicants' own future financial subsistence
 - for the ability to work, the health or the care of the owner of the medical practice or pharmacy
 - in available medical care for the local population.
 - Termination of previous studies or job due to unemployment or poor job prospects.
 - Termination of previous studies or job due to lack of motivation or aptitude.
 - Termination of previous studies or job for reasons of conscience.
 - Applicants think they have special aptitude for the study programme and profession.
 - Practical work/exam was successfully completed that is mandatory or, under previous law, improved the chances of admission (e.g. nursing, preliminary pharmaceutical exam).
 - Applicants have completed coursework and/or periods of studies that can be recognized.
 - Many years of theoretical work in the field of the intended study programme.
 - Advanced age of the applicants.
 - Repeated rejection of applications for the desired study programme.
 - Applicants will exceed age limit in case the start of studies is further delayed (e.g. for practical training phase or appointment as a civil servant).
 - Without immediate admission, loss of academic adjustments provided by law.
 - Completion of a period of service.
 - Potential call-up to the German armed forces if admission is not granted.
 - Higher education entrance qualification is restricted to a certain region.
 - Applicants started a study programme abroad and cannot complete it there; therefore they want to continue here.
 - High expenses for acquisition of university entrance qualification via an alternate route.
- Regarding 4.**
- The deadline for enrolment in the study programme was missed in a previous semester.
 - Applicants had been admitted to the programme in a previous semester, but could not start studying – before or after enrolment – because, e.g. they did not find a place to live.
 - Applicants were admitted to the programme in a previous semester, but could not enrol as the university did not recognize the higher education entrance qualification.