

Important information about hardship case applications when applying for subjects with local admission restrictions at Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf

What is a hardship case application?

A so-called hardship case application is a special case request and forms part of the main study application. This special case request gives you the opportunity to get circumstances recognised that may necessitate your immediate admission to study.

The hardship case application is thus always aimed at facilitating admission (initial application or study programme switch) and cannot be submitted in order to gain a waiver of tuition fees.

How many hardship case applications can be accepted?

HHU Düsseldorf reserves a maximum of 2% of study places for such hardship cases.

When do hardship case applications need to be submitted?

As a special case request, the hardship case application forms part of the main study application and must generally be submitted at the same time as the online application.

The application deadline for the winter semester is 15 July every year.

Documents submitted after the deadline cannot be accepted. Please therefore ensure that you submit all documents needed to prove the special hardship with your application. All circumstances stated in the hardship case must be substantiated by appropriate evidence that enables a person not familiar with the case to follow your reasoning on the basis of the documentation.

Who does the hardship case application apply for?

A hardship case can be recognised for those few individuals who cannot reasonably be expected, even on application of particularly strict standards, to wait for even one semester before admission due to extremely serious health, social or family reasons. Applicants will then be selected irrespective of the “average grade” and “waiting period” selection criteria due to their exceptional situation.

How should the hardship case application be submitted?

At the end of your online application, you will be requested to print out a review form. Add a written justification to this review form together with the required evidence. Certificates from offices authorised to use official seals must include these official seals. Photocopies of such certificates must be officially certified.

Please note: It is only possible to complete the requisite overall assessment of all the circumstances of your individual case if you provide an exhaustive description and evidence of your reasons.

What hardship cases can be taken into account?

All applicants should review their prospects of success with a critical eye and apply strict standards. The guidelines for hardship cases published on the “hochschulstart.de” website (see below) can offer assistance as they list sample cases in which hardship case applications – where they meet the strict requirements – can be accepted. They also include a list of examples that are not suitable as justification for a hardship case application.

You can find further important information and info sheets on the [hochschulstart](https://www.hochschulstart.de) website (German only).