



Deutscher Verein der Blinden und Sehbehinderten in Studium und Beruf e.V.

The German association of blind and visually impaired students and professionals (Deutscher Verein der Blinden und Sehbehinderten in Studium und Beruf e.V. - DVBS) is a national self-help organization of blind and visually impaired people. With their disability and despite of it, the members of DVBS seek to achieve independent living and success in their professional lives. The accredited non-profit organization is based in Marburg/Lahn.

Self-help pays off

The main goals of DVBS are to promote self-help and to represent the interests of people with disabilities in a social, professional, cultural and legal context.

Whether the disability is congenital or acquired later in life, with DVBS every blind or visually impaired person finds support and empowerment through networking, counselling and exchange of information. As a community, DVBS in itself is a powerful force that works together with authorities in all relevant areas, such as politics, further education and welfare on a national and international level.

Blind and visually impaired people, their friends and promoters, as well as any interested persons or entities are welcome to contact us. The needs of those looking for support are the center of our work. We guarantee impartial counselling. Our offer is meant to show people the way towards self-help, accessibility is a high priority in all our material and events. DVBS fully supports the principles of lifelong learning.

People can count on DVBS, for example, when needing help to cope with psychological aspects of their situation as a person with a disability. We support people on their way to developing new perspectives in education or professional orientation, or even for an active live after retirement. We share our know-how on the right to assistive technology and offer individual support in obtaining the respective equipment.

Our approximately 1350 members contribute to our goals according to their personal interests, know-how and resources. Our members work together in groups related to their profession, special interests or temporary projects. Moreover, each member belongs to the regional group of the district he or she lives in. Roundabout 46% of our members are visually impaired or severely visually impaired. Their average age is 42 years. And 46% of our members are women.

What DVBS has to offer

- **Counselling** - We inform our members about general and more specific issues in the areas of education, professional life or active retirement. Via DVBS, our members can use legal counselling or representation in disability-related issues given by blind lawyers who work at a non-profit company called Rights of People with Disabilities (Rechte behinderter Menschen - rbm gGmbH).
- **Vocational training** - DVBS organizes seminars, workshops and conferences, in order to provide our members with new skills and state-of-the-art professional knowledge. By doing so, we improve their capacities and abilities in the context of lifelong learning. Check our current agenda at www.dvbs-online.de
- **Mentoring** - In our mentoring program at DVBS, we offer peer-to-peer coaching on educational and job-related issues, as well as any other general or specific difficulties concerning life with our disability.
- **Jobmarket news** – In our open mailing list “DVBS-Jobservice”, we inform our subscribers about current job offers we receive directly from the employment service for specialized workforce for national and international placement (ZAV) which is part of the national employment agency. We also receive job offers from other authorities, organizations or even from our membership.
- **Publications** – Our magazine "horus, Marburg contributions to integration of blind and visually impaired people" is distributed freely to our members. Furthermore, we have a newsletter in which we keep interested readers informed on current issues such as compensation for disadvantages, social legislation, education and professional integration.
- **Voluntary work** - Members of DVBS contribute to our work by donating part of their time and talents to our various interest groups. This way they put their personal interests and talents to good use by supporting our common goals in a political, social or health-related context.

How to join

To become a full member of DVBS, one has to reach the age of sixteen. Parents can become members for their children. Our annual fee for membership is currently 132 euros, the reduced fee being 66 euros. Sponsoring members are also welcome. DVBS was founded in 1916 and is registered at the local court in Marburg. For further information, please contact our Marburg offices.

Contact

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