

P-16: Proposal and Implementation of a Swiss Research Centre for Barrier-free Communication

The School of Applied Linguistics at the Zurich University of Applied Sciences is working with the University of Geneva to develop a Swiss centre for barrier-free communication. The purpose of the research centre is to ensure that individuals with a visual or hearing disability, persons with a temporary cognitive impairment and speakers without good knowledge of the local language can communicate and enjoy barrier-free access to information in all spheres of life. This is done by evaluating and standardising relevant methods and training in the areas of audio description, traditional captioning and captions with speech-to-text systems, translation into simple language, community interpreting, use of sign language, machine translation into sign language and the development of barrier-free digital documents.

The focus of the project is barrier-free accessibility to education and studies at all Swiss higher education institutions; the primary target group consists of current and prospective students with an impairment.