Rianna de Jonker | Chronic pain (CRPS), hyperacusis, dizziness & invisible disability

I started university while already living with chronic pain, but at the time I did not see myself as someone with a disability. During my studies, my health situation became increasingly complex. Everyday sounds became physically painful, I developed severe dizziness, and my CRPS progressed. Being on campus required too much energy. Studying with a largely invisible disability while also feeling welcome and included within the VU Community has brought many challenges. I rely on accessibility, flexibility and understanding. What makes the biggest difference are people who are willing to think along with students, who remain open-minded, and who do not immediately say "no". However, my disability does not mean I am limited in my studies or that I don't need academic challenges! Despite the obstacles, I completed two master programmes in eight years.

Studying with a disability

vu.nl/en/student/studying-with-a-disability

Scan de QR to view all the interviews online!