



Disability Support Services

The disability team is located in the student centre in Eagle building and consists of Fiona Valentine our manager, Elizabeth McGovern and Amy Dooley Disability Advisors and Jo Morgan administrator.

The Disability team supports any student or prospective student who has a Disability. If you aren't sure whether your condition is a disability, then you can get in touch with us and we can advise you on this.

Some conditions that you might not expect come under disability support. For example, Dyslexia, ADHD, Asperger syndrome and autistic spectrum condition. In addition, long-term health conditions such as, irritable bowel syndrome, diabetes, chronic fatigue syndrome and fibromyalgia as well as many others.

Mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression are also applicable, as well as other conditions that you might usually associate with disability support such as visual and hearing impairments and physical disabilities such cerebral palsy.

If you think you have dyslexia or another specific learning difficulty but don't have a full diagnostic report you can get tested through a referral from the disability team. If you are interested please contact us to speak with an advisor for information on this and to fill in the referral forms.

What support can you get from Disability service?

This will depend very much upon the disability or condition being supported and the individual needs of the student so comparing with other students might not necessarily be helpful.

We would need a copy of your medical evidence. If you have a medical condition or mental health condition we can help with supplying a medical evidence form that you can ask your doctor to complete for you. When we have appropriate evidence we can start looking into putting in place appropriate support for you.

If you are eligible we would encourage you to apply to your funding body such as Student Finance England for Disabled Students' Allowance. Through this you would be likely to have an assessment of need. An assessment of need is a chat with an experienced disability assessor who can find out how your condition affects you and ask your funding body to pay for cost of support they think is appropriate to recommend for you.

Possible support though disabled students allowance can include support workers such as study skills tutor, mental health mentor or British sign language interpreter. Assistive technology solutions may be recommended too, for example audio read

back or speech recognition software and magnifying software or support with recording lectures. Recommendations are tailored to the Individual needs of the student.

The disability team can also send a notification to your academic department giving advice on appropriate inclusive teaching strategies. We can make arrangements for alternative adjustments for examinations as appropriate such as extra time. We have marking guidelines for SpLDs and can provide stickers to identify your work for tutors, extended library loans and accessible parking for blue badge holders.

Help and Support

If you feel you have a disability, specific learning difficulty or health condition that may come under disability support please get in touch for further advice. You can call us on 01204 903478 to make an appointment or find out when our next drop in session is.

Access LEAP Online at: www.bolton.ac.uk/leaponline