

Support strategies and 'reasonable adjustment'

Equality legislation has now subsumed all the original Disability Discrimination policies. The law requires that HE institutions must make reasonable adjustment to accommodate the disability related needs of disabled/dyslexic students / students who have chronic health conditions / students who have mental health issues.

This means we must make adjustments where appropriate so that a student's academic performance and experience is not compromised by disability.

The HE Disability and Dyslexia Service at Barnsley College provides HE staff and disabled students with advice and guidance on the adjustments which might be considered reasonable within the context of the student's learning experience. Such adjustments might include:

- Exam adjustments : extra time; use of a pc; location in a separate room or room with a smaller group of candidates; enlarged print;
- One-to one support for dyslexia coaching; access to a study mentor; use of BSL interpreter.
- Extensions to library loans; texts scanned to disc; extensions to assignment deadlines; confidence building around presentations and group-work.
- Access to DSA funded equipment and assistive software.

Adjustments are explored through discussions with the HE Disability Adviser and in most cases through the formal Needs Assessment process.

The Adviser will work with the student to agree the strategies which best match the disability related needs- so that the student can get the best from their respective study experience at Barnsley College HE .

The discussions are confidential – and suggested strategies will only be forwarded to tutors/ library/ with specific consent of the student!

However it is important to recognise that specific adjustments cannot be made without collaboration with the relevant tutors and HE staff. The Disability Adviser will ensure that student information is always handled sensitively and with due regard to data protection; medical evidence is not circulated!

Where full consent is given by the student, advice and guidance can be stored centrally for access by appropriate staff, to allow the student's HE experience to be fully inclusive.