



Support for students with Dyslexia and other Specific Learning Difficulties at University of Chichester

The University has a large number of students with a range of disabilities. Approximately 10% of students have disclosed that they have dyslexia or another similar specific learning difficulty. This document is an outline of the support that students with dyslexia can expect at Chichester.

Getting assessed

How do I prove I am dyslexic?

The Disability and Academic Skills Services will ask you to provide a copy of any assessments which have been carried out showing your difficulties. We would expect your assessment to include an assessment of your cognitive skills. These tests can be carried out by Educational Psychologists or some specialist dyslexia teachers. We would usually prefer the report to have been carried out after the age of 16. However, we will consider any evidence you provide and will advise you if we believe you would benefit from a new assessment. To arrange a meeting with an advisor please phone 01243 812076.

What happens if I have lost my report or I need a new assessment?

Once you are registered as a student we can arrange an assessment with an Educational Psychologist. This assessment will give a good understanding of your needs and advise us on what adjustments you might need for exams etc. This assessment can also be used as evidence for an application for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA). See below.

I'm not sure if I am dyslexic or not What can I do?

You should book an appointment with the Dyslexia Advisor to carry out a 'screening'. This takes about an hour and involves some testing. The Dyslexia Advisor will then decide whether you need a full assessment with an Educational Psychologist. You can book a screening appointment by phoning 01243 812076.

Will I have to pay for a dyslexia assessment?

The Educational Psychologists charge approximately £310 per assessment. If you are registered as a student we can usually pay for the assessment for you. We use a hardship fund for this. However, this fund does have limits and it is possible in future that we will need to ask for a contribution towards the cost. We will tell you if we need to do this before arranging the appointment. Students on the Police courses get the assessments paid for by their employers.

Getting help with assignments and study skills

If you have the DSA...

If you have applied to Student Finance England (SFE) for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) you may be given an allowance towards study skills support from a trained dyslexia tutor. The Disability Team have Dyslexia Tutors that they can recommend to you or you may be able to use the allowance to arrange a private tutor. The allowances usually specify an initial ten hours of tuition, one hour per week for ten weeks. If the Dyslexia Tutor believes you would benefit from further tuition they will help you apply for more hours by producing a short report. Please note, the focus of the tuition is to help you develop your own strategies. It is **not a proofreading service**.

If you do not have the DSA.

Dyslexic students who have not managed to get the DSA can still get some help from the Dyslexia Advisor. The Dyslexia Advisor can give advice on planning assignments, exam revision, reading strategies etc. You can book appointments with the Dyslexia Advisor up to once per fortnight. However, she does get very busy so it is better to book in advance. Book an appointment by phoning 01243 812076.

Is there any other help available?

- The Academic Skills Tutor runs weekly workshops on both campuses. These cover such topics as dissertation planning; exam technique; reading techniques etc. The workshops are free and any student can attend. There is no need to book, simply turn up. Posters displaying times, dates and rooms are displayed around the campus. However, you can find out more by contacting the Disability Team on 01243 812076.

- The Academic Skills Tutor can also see people individually. She will give advice on essay writing; note taking; organising etc. Individual appointments can be booked by phoning 01243 812143 or e-mailing academicskillsadvisor@chi.ac.uk.
- The Royal Literary Fellows are also available to give individual help to students on the Chichester campus. They will review work and advise on structure; writing style; grammar etc. You can book an appointment by signing up an available slot on their door, H147, or phoning them on 01243 816187.
- There are a variety of Study Skills Resources on the University website. You can find this on www.chi.ac.uk/academicskills.

What about exams and assignments?

The Dyslexia Advisor will meet with you to discuss appropriate exam arrangements. She will then recommend the appropriate arrangement. This could be extra time, use of a PC, rest breaks, a reader, a scribe etc.

The University has a policy on marking the work of dyslexic students. You may be issued with stickers to attach to your coursework which tell the marker that you are dyslexic. In most cases they are then able to make allowances for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors where they do not interfere with meaning. It will also help them give you appropriate feedback. N.B. Teaching qualifications, Education courses, Social Work and some language modules in English are exempt from this policy.

Other resources and support

I had a lap-top at school. Can I get this at Uni?

The Disabled Student Allowance is held by Student Finance England and can pay for any additional equipment you might need (specialist software; computer equipment; digital recorders to records lectures etc). The Disability Team or the Dyslexia Advisor can help you further with applying for this. It is a long process and it is best applying before your course starts. However, you can apply for this at any time during your course.

The Open Access IT Suite has some additional software such as screen-readers which can be helpful to dyslexic students.

Can I get longer Library loans?

Yes. The Dyslexia Advisor can issue you with an Assisted Library Card. You can



use this in the library with your ordinary Library card to claim an extra day's loan on two-day loan books and some other loans.

I struggle to read black print on white paper. What can I do?

The Dyslexia Advisor can recommend to tutors if a student needs to use a particular paper colour or font type. The tutors will then either arrange for handouts etc to be given on the appropriate paper. In some cases they may distribute the material electronically, in which case you can adapt the material to suit your own needs.

To book an appointment with an advisor, or find out more about support for people with dyslexia, contact the Disability and Academic Skills Services by phoning 01243 812076 or e-mailing Dyslexia@chi.ac.uk

Other Contacts:

The Disability and Academic Skills Co-ordinator

Steve O'Melia s.omelia@chi.ac.uk Direct line and voicemail: 01243 812076

Dyslexia Advisor: Sue Goff s.goff@chi.ac.uk

BOC Room 105 New Hall - 01243 816065

BRC Room 6 Student Services BRC - 01243 812111

Sensory Advisor sensadvisor@chi.ac.uk Mobile: 07739 983 705

BOC Room 102 New Hall - 01243 -816039

BRC Room 9 Student Services - 01243 812145 - Minicom 01243 812013

Academic Skills Tutor Maureen Preece m.preece@chi.ac.uk

BOC Room 103 New Hall - 01243 816040

BRC Room 7 Student Services BRC - 01243 812143

Administrator: Marion Hitchins m.hitchins@chi.ac.uk

Direct line and voice mail: 01243 812076 Fax: 01243 -812000

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Main Admin base: BRC Room 10 Student Services BRC - 01243 812076

Part-time base: BOC Room 102 New Hall - 01243 816039

Nurse Health Advisors: Denise Wild, Rebecca Joy studenthealth@chi.ac.uk

BOC Health Centre, New Hall - 01243 816111

Mental Health Advisor: Simon Peers mentalhealth@chi.ac.uk 01243 816402

BOC Health Centre 5, New Hall,

BRC Health Centre, Student Services, - 01243 812122