

Fact sheet 1:

Students with learning disabilities

Learning disabilities refer to a variety of conditions that affect the acquisition, retention, understanding, organisation or use of verbal and/or non-verbal information. They include dyslexia (reading), dysgraphia (writing) and Attention Deficit Disorder.

Learning disabilities may affect any of the following:

- ability to set goals
- ability to set priorities
- concentration
- time required to complete tasks
- ability to process information
- ability to follow lectures
- ability to follow instructions
- reading rate
- comprehension
- writing legibility and speed
- spelling
- numerical abilities
- other factors depending upon the specific nature of the impairment

There are reasonable adjustments that may be made to teaching, learning and assessment practices by tertiary providers to assist students with disabilities. Listed below are examples of the different supports and accommodations that may be available.

Tick the boxes that best meet your study needs:

- lecture material in advance
- essential reading lists in advance
- flexibility in assignment deadlines
- possible alternative course assessment
- taped lectures
- concepts to be paraphrased
- all hand-out material to be read aloud
- all printed material to be on coloured paper (colour: _____)
- clearly labelled equipment in labs
- greater use of examples
- enrolment assistance
- housing or accommodation assistance
- media services assistance
- library assistance
- alternative exam arrangements (Disability Adviser)
- specialist equipment (Disability Adviser)
- support staff (Disability Adviser)
- other: _____

To find out more about the range of supports and accommodations available at your tertiary provider contact disability staff for a confidential chat.

Refer to Worksheet 5: Questions to ask the Disability Liaison Officer or Student Support Officer, Worksheet 7: Key questions and Worksheet 4: Understanding your study requirements, all of which complement this Fact Sheet.