

# **Support for Students with Dyslexia and other Specific Learning Difficulties at the 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 specific learning difficulty. This document is an outline of the support that students with dyslexia/a specific learning difficulty can expect at Chichester.

## **Getting assessed**

*How do I prove I am dyslexic?*

The Disability and Dyslexia Service will ask you to provide a copy of any assessment reports for dyslexia. We would expect a report to include an assessment of your cognitive skills. These assessments can be carried out by Educational Psychologists or certain specialist dyslexia teachers. We will consider all 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, the Disability and Dyslexia Service can arrange an assessment with an Educational Psychologist. The assessment report will help us to understand your needs regarding support on your course and it will advise us on adjustments you might require for exams. This report can also be used as evidence for an application for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs - see below). You should book an appointment with the Dyslexia Advisor to discuss this as soon as possible after starting your course. There is likely to be a charge for this assessment.

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

You should book an appointment with the Dyslexia Advisor for an initial screening. This takes about an hour and involves some testing. The Dyslexia Advisor will then decide whether you need a full diagnostic assessment with an Educational Psychologist. You can book a screening appointment by phoning 01243 816222. This screening is free of charge.

*Will I have to pay for a dyslexia diagnostic assessment?*

The Educational Psychologists charge approximately £330 per assessment. If you are registered as a student, the University may be able to help pay for part of the assessment. You will be informed about how much you would be expected to pay before booking the appointment with the Educational Psychologist.

## **Getting help with assignments and study skills**

*If you have the DSAs...*

If you have applied to your funding authority, e.g. Student Finance England (SFE), for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) you may be given an allowance for specialist study skills support from a qualified dyslexia tutor. This allowance usually provides one hour per week of support. In some cases, it may be possible to have more than one hour per week. Please note, the focus of the tuition is to help you to develop your own skills and strategies. It is **not a proofreading service**.

*If you do not have the DSAs...*

Dyslexic students who have not managed to get the DSAs can still receive some help from the Dyslexia Advisor. The Dyslexia Advisor can offer advice in a number of areas, including the development of reading skills, planning and writing essays, and revision strategies. You can book appointments with the Dyslexia Advisor up to once per fortnight. Please book in advance as this service can be very busy. Book an appointment by phoning the Disability and Dyslexia Service main number: 01243 812076, or the Support and Information Zone (SIZ) 01243 816222.

### *Is there any other support available?*

- The Academic Skills Advisor runs weekly workshops on both campuses. These cover topics such as dissertation planning, research techniques, referencing and exam strategies. The workshops are free and any student can attend. Posters displaying times, dates and rooms are displayed around the campus. However, you can find out more by contacting the Support and Information Zone (SIZ) on 01243 816222.
- The Academic Skills Advisor can also see students on an individual basis. The Advisor will provide support with essay writing, note taking and organizational skills. Individual appointments can be booked by phoning 01243 816040 or e-mailing [academicskillsadviser@chi.ac.uk](mailto:academicskillsadviser@chi.ac.uk).
- The Royal Literary Fellows are also available to give individual support to students on the Chichester campus. They will review work and advise on structure, writing style, grammar. You can book an appointment via the Support and Information Zone (SIZ) on 01243 816222.
- There are also a variety of Study Skills resources on the University Moodle pages, which are available to registered students.

### *What about exams and assignments?*

The Dyslexia Advisor will meet with you to discuss exam arrangements and will then make the appropriate recommendation. This could be for extra time, use of a PC, rest breaks, a reader, a scribe.

The University has a policy on marking the work of dyslexic students. You may be issued with stickers (or an electronic equivalent) to attach to your coursework, which inform the marker that you are dyslexic. In most cases, the marker is then able to make allowances for spelling, grammar and punctuation errors where these do not interfere with meaning. The sticker may also help the marker to 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 laptop at school. Can I get this at Uni?*

The Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are held by Student Finance England/your funding authority, and may fund any additional equipment you might need; for example, assistive technology, recording devices and specialist software. The Disability Service/Dyslexia Advisor can help you with the DSAs application process. It is a long process and it is best to apply before your course commences. However, you can apply for the DSAs at any time during your course.

The open access IT suites on both campuses have computers with additional software such as screen-readers and mind-maps, which can be helpful to dyslexic students.

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

The Dyslexia Advisor may be able to recommend to tutors a particular paper colour or font type to use. The Advisor may request evidence of your difficulties. Tutors will then arrange for handouts on the appropriate paper, or 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 to find out more about support for dyslexic students, please contact the Disability and Dyslexia service on 01243 812076 or email [dyslexia@chi.ac.uk](mailto:dyslexia@chi.ac.uk).

Alternatively, appointments with the Advisor can be made by going in person to the Support and Information Zone (SIZ), located in the Learning Resource Centre, or phoning SIZ on 01243 816222.

## **Contacts summary:**

### **Head of Disability and Dyslexia Services**

Steve O'Melia; [s.omelia@chi.ac.uk](mailto:s.omelia@chi.ac.uk)

Telephone and voicemail: 01243 812076

### **Dyslexia Advisors**

[dyslexia@chi.ac.uk](mailto:dyslexia@chi.ac.uk)

Chichester campus: Room 105, New Hall.

Bognor Regis campus: Student Services in the Learning Resource Centre.

Telephone and voicemail: 01243 812076

### **Disability and Dyslexia Service:**

[disability@chi.ac.uk](mailto:disability@chi.ac.uk) / [dyslexia@chi.ac.uk](mailto:dyslexia@chi.ac.uk)

Direct line and voice mail: 01243 812076

### **Academic Skills Advisor or Royal Literary Fellows:**

Appointments through SIZ, either in person at the SIZ desk in the Learning Resource Centre or by calling 01243 816222.

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