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# Disability Supports SETU Waterford

Email:  
[DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie](mailto:DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie)

[setu.ie](https://setu.ie)  
**INSPIRING FUTURES**

# Disability Service

- ▶ Students with disabilities are encouraged to disclose their disability when applying to SETU through the CAO or equivalent method of application.
- ▶ Students can also disclose their disability at any time during the course of their studies directly.
- ▶ Disclosure should be encouraged by all staff so that SETU can ensure that reasonable accommodations are identified and facilitated.
- ▶ At the point of disclosure to the Disability Office a needs assessment is carried out by the Disability Officer.
- ▶ During the student's needs assessment, reasonable accommodations are decided upon.

# Disability Service

- ▶ Under the Disability Act 2005 and the Equal Status Acts , Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) must provide reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities where it would be impossible or unduly difficult for them to participate in third level education without such.
- ▶ Failure to provide reasonable accommodations can amount to discrimination.
- ▶ A reasonable accommodation is *“any action that helps alleviate a substantial disadvantage”*.
- ▶ It involves providing special treatment, facilities, or academic adjustments to allow full participation, without educational disadvantage, in comparison to non disabled peers.
- ▶ Reasonable accommodations aim to remove the impact of a disability so that students can compete equally, on a level playing field, with their non disabled peers.

# Disability Service.

- ▶ Reasonable Accommodations vary and can include for example,
  - ▶ Assistive technology (lecture recording devices, electronic reading software etc.)
  - ▶ Learning support.
  - ▶ Examination accommodations (scribe/readers, extra time, low distraction venues, computer to type etc.)
  - ▶ ASD specific supports.
  - ▶ Personal Assistants/Note-takers.

Supports are funded through the HEA under the Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD)

# Examination Accommodations

- The Disability Office in liaison with the Exams Office and individual School Offices arrange exam accommodations for students for officially timetabled end of semester exams and autumn repeats.
- Students wishing to avail of in-class exam accommodations must request use of their exam accommodations for in-class exams from the organising lecturer.
- Generally, students are required to provide at least 2 weeks notice to their lecturer if they require exam accommodations for in-class exams.
- The lecturer then liaises with the relevant school office to arrange the accommodations.

# Disability Service

- ▶ Under the Equal Status Acts a HEI is vicariously liable if its employees fail to reasonably accommodate a student's disability.
- ▶ If a student is not reasonably accommodated legal proceedings can be brought against the HEI.
- ▶ The HEI may also be liable for investigation and fines under the Disability Act 2005 regarding access to buildings, information and services.

# How can academic staff find out the accommodations their students have been approved ?

- ▶ Individual School offices have a record of students exam accommodations.
- ▶ Academic staff can also go to the disability page of the SETU Waterford website and click on:
  - Information for staff
  - View exam accommodations
- ▶ This enables academic staff view the exam accommodations of students on the specific modules that they teach.
- ▶ If there is difficulty with any of the above or if there is any questions about an accommodation, staff can contact the disability office directly at [DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie](mailto:DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie)

# Disability Webpage

There are a variety of resources for staff on the disability webpage

[https://www.wit.ie/current\\_students/student\\_life\\_and\\_learning/disability\\_service](https://www.wit.ie/current_students/student_life_and_learning/disability_service)

- ▶ Including
  - ▶ Relevant Policies.
  - ▶ Marking Guidelines.
  - ▶ Accessible documents.
  - ▶ ASD information etc.

# Eligibility

- ▶ Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- ▶ Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADD/ADHD)
- ▶ Blind/Vision Impaired
- ▶ Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- ▶ Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia)
- ▶ Mental Health Condition
- ▶ Neurological Condition
- ▶ Physical/mobility Disability
- ▶ Specific Learning Difficulties (Including Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)
- ▶ Significant Ongoing Illness
- ▶ Speech and Language/Communication Disorder

# Evidence of Disability

<b>Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)</b>	A report from an appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician providing a diagnosis of ASD.	No age limit
<b>Attention Deficit Disorder/ Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder</b>	A report from an appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician providing a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD.	No age limit
<b>Deaf/Hard of Hearing</b>	A report from one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An audiogram from a professionally qualified Audiologist and/or ENT Consultant, indicating moderate to profound bilateral hearing loss (i.e. above 40dB).</li><li>• A letter from the principal from a school for the Deaf confirming attendance.</li></ul>	No age limit

# Evidence of Disability

<b>Blind/Vision Impaired</b>	<p>A report from one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ophthalmologist/Ophthalmic Surgeon providing a diagnosis of severe reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses. The diagnosis must be in relation to Best Corrected Visual Acuity or Field of Vision.</li><li>• A letter from the National Council for the Blind confirming registration</li><li>• A letter from the principal from a school for the Blind confirming attendance.</li></ul>	No age limit
<b>Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A report from a Psychologist OR an Occupational Therapist OR chartered Physiotherapist OR Neurologist diagnosing Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia).</li></ul>	No age limit

# Evidence of Disability

<b>Mental Health Condition</b> (For example, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Clinical Depression, Severe Anxiety, Severe Phobias, OCD, Severe Eating Disorders and Psychosis).	A report from a Consultant Psychiatrist or Specialist Registrar	Less than five years
<b>Neurological Condition</b>	Neurological Conditions: Neurologist OR another relevant Consultant	No age limit
<b>Significant Ongoing Illness</b>	A report, diagnosing a significant ongoing illness such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Diabetes Type 1: Endocrinologist or paediatrician</li><li>• Cystic Fibrosis: Consultant respiratory physician or paediatrician</li><li>• Gastroenterology condition: Gastroenterologist</li><li>• Other: Consultant/Consultant Registrar.</li></ul>	Less than five years

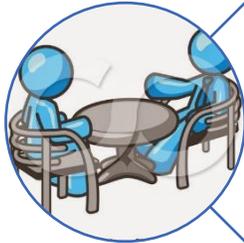
# Evidence of Disability

<b>Physical/mobility</b>	A report from an Orthopaedic Consultant or other relevant specialist diagnosing a significant physical or mobility difficulty.	No age limit
<b>Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The report of a psycho-educational assessment by a Psychologist OR by an assessor (PATOSS accredited) diagnosing a Specific Learning Difficulty.</li><li>• All tests used in the assessment must be valid, reliable and age appropriate.</li></ul>	No age limit
<b>Speech and Language Communication Disorder</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A report from a speech and language therapist.</li></ul>	No age limit

# How to Access Supports



Step 1: Contact the Disability Office. Email. [DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie](mailto:DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie). Students will then be sent a link to an online application form for disability supports or reasonable accommodations.



Step 2: Complete the online application form and upload evidence of disability. Students will then be offered an appointment.



Step 3: Attend an appointment with the disability officer. Following on from the appointment reasonable accommodations will be put in place (e.g. ongoing exam or assistive technology supports).

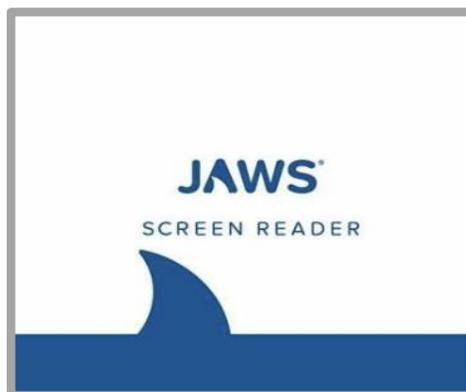
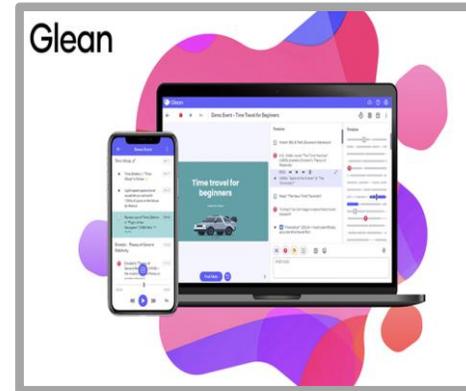


Step 4: Once this process is completed, the relevant departments within SETU (e.g. Examination Offices; School Office etc.) will be informed of your reasonable accommodations.

# Assistive Technology

- ▶ Assistive Technology is defined as the use of technology to assist performance a task more easily.
  - ▶ Assistive Technology can assist students to read better, write better, take better notes, study better etc. .
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# Assistive Technology Supports



# Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)

- ▶ SETU participates in the DARE programme.
- ▶ DARE stands for the **Disability Access Route to Education (DARE)**
- ▶ **DARE** is an alternative admissions scheme for school-leavers whose disabilities have had a negative impact on their second level education.
- ▶ Applicants to DARE must be a school leavers with a disability under the age of 23yrs and been educationally impacted as a result of disability.
- ▶ DARE offers reduced points places to school leavers who, as a result of having a disability, have experienced additional educational challenges in second level education.

# DARE Continued

- ▶ SETU Waterford offers DARE eligible candidates a reduction of up to 30 points on all courses.
- ▶ DARE eligible candidates must still compete for a DARE place under normal CAO rules.
- ▶ Candidates deemed DARE eligible by the CAO must satisfy the minimum entry requirements for admission to SETU Waterford and the specific subject requirements for the courses to which they have applied
- ▶ DARE reduced points and merit offers are made through the CAO and are issued in Round 1

# Contact Us

► [DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie](mailto:DisabilityOffice.WD@setu.ie)