



School of Health Sciences
Code of Practice for the support of disabled students

Guidance for Students

The School of Health Sciences at The University of Liverpool offers health sciences professional education at undergraduate and post graduate level and values a diverse student population across all levels. The health science professions have competency standards and fitness to practise requirements. All health science professionals and students have a responsibility to meet these competencies and to maintain their own fitness to practise. Fitness to practise encompasses skills, knowledge and personal health. Disability, impairment, learning and health needs do not necessarily present barriers to achieving academic success or fitness to practice requirements. The University of Liverpool offers a Disability Support Team within the Student Support Services that will work with you to identify any potential barriers and to negotiate appropriate support systems and strategies.

This guidance document has been designed for students considering application to one of the health science programmes and for those students already registered with the School of Health Sciences at The University of Liverpool.

The Equality Act (2010) legally defines the term “disability”. You may not like the term “disability” or you may not consider yourself to be disabled. Whilst the School of Health Sciences recognises the Social Model of Disability which sees disability as being created by societal phenomena, we would encourage you to consider your own circumstances in relation to the Equality Act definition i.e. a physical or mental impairment which has an effect on your ability to carry out normal day to day activities. As a student within university studying, learning, participating in assessment procedures are normal day to day activities. As a student on practice placement participating in professional procedures, team work and client/practitioner interaction are normal day to day activities. The Equality Act identifies a large range of disabilities, impairments and medical conditions including unseen disabilities such as specific learning difficulties (e.g. dyslexia). If you recognise that your own circumstances fall into any of these categories and that you may require support, we would encourage you to initially contact The School Diversity and Equality Tutor (alisona@liv.ac.uk) in order that any barriers to your successful study can be removed or minimised.

Disability Disclosure

The University of Liverpool is working toward providing an inclusive learning environment. Physical barriers on campus are being removed where possible and teaching practices are changing. However, we recognise that learning needs are unique to each individual. If we are made aware of your specific needs, steps can be taken to ensure that your rights under The Equality Act are met. Support systems cannot be implemented if we do not know about your current circumstances. In order to assist you in making a decision regarding disclosure we recommend that

- You familiarise yourself with The Equality Act (www.gov.uk/equality-act-2010-guidance)
- You consult The Health Profession Document “A disabled person’s guide to becoming a health professional” (<http://www.hpc-uk.org/publications/index.asp?id+111>)
- You read The School of Health Sciences Code of Practice for Support of Disabled Students and the University Guide for Support and Services for Disabled (<http://www.liv.ac.uk/studentsupport/disability/index.htm>)
- You talk to a member of the Disability Support Team, details on how to book an appointment can be found at <http://www.liv.ac.uk/studentsupport/disability/Appoint.emts.htm>

If you decide that it is in your own interest to tell us about your circumstances, please get in touch with the Disability Contact for your Directorate and/or the University Disability Support Team as soon as possible. You will have the opportunity to discuss your specific needs in confidence and to identify support strategies. No information will be shared about you and no action will be taken without your permission. The only exception to this is if your safety or the safety of someone else is put at risk by not doing so.

The Equality Act (2010) states that you do not have to tell us about any disability, impairment or medical condition that may impact on your ability to study or participate in practice education. The choice is yours and whilst the School of Health Sciences respects that choice, if we are not made aware of your circumstances then we cannot be held responsible if some of your specific needs are not met.