

Students with Disabilities – Guidelines for Students

Academic Support for Students with Disabilities

LSTM provides support and advice to students with a wide range of impairments. While we understand that not everyone who might need support thinks of themselves as 'disabled', we use the single term 'disability' to cover a broad range of issues. Some of these conditions are listed below:

- Physical Disability - this may be someone who is a wheel chair user or perhaps someone who is not able to use both hands.
 - Sensory Disability - this includes people who are deaf or have a hearing loss. The term 'sensory' also relates to people who are blind or have some loss of vision.
 - Mental Health - the term 'mental health issues' covers a range of conditions including depression, anxiety and eating disorders. The severity and length of a condition varies with every individual.
 - Specific Learning Difficulty e.g. Dyslexia - This can include people who experience dyslexia, dyspraxia or non-verbal learning deficits.
 - Medical Conditions and other disabilities - This covers health issues including epilepsy, diabetes, HIV, Multiple Sclerosis (MS) and asthma.
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Definition of Disability

The Equality Act (2010) defines a disabled person as someone who has a mental or physical impairment that has an effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. The effect must be:

- Substantial (that is more than minor or trivial) and
- Long term (that is, has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months or for the rest of the life of the person affected) and
- Adverse

LSTM recognises the social model of disability, whereby an individual is understood to be disadvantaged not by their disability, but by social barriers, such as the physical environment, methods of communication and prejudicial attitudes. LSTM is committed to developing a fully inclusive learning environment for all of our students.

How to Seek Support

The Student Experience Officer at LSTM is responsible for the co-ordination of support for disabled students and provides specialist guidance and support services for all prospective and current students.

We encourage you to disclose your disability as soon as possible. If you have not already disclosed your disability on your application form, you should contact the Student Experience Officer as soon as possible. You can email, phone or request a meeting at the Student Support Desk (open 8:30 – 10:00 and 13:00 – 14:00, Monday to Friday).

You should complete a Learner Support Questionnaire and supply the appropriate medical evidence. Return the form to the Student Support Desk or a copy via email to: SAW@lstmed.ac.uk

Uncertain?

If you have a medical condition or unseen disability and feel uncertain about contacting the Student Experience Officer, we urge you to do so as we may be able to help. A medical condition can include diabetes, epilepsy, cancer, HIV, arthritis, asthma and others. We know that each person's disability can affect them in different ways so the support we offer is flexible and tailored to each individual. We encourage all students with disabilities to make contact with the Student Experience Officer to discuss how your individual needs can be met.

What Medical Evidence do I Need to Provide?

- A letter confirming your disability, the nature of your condition and how it affects you in an educational environment. For further guidance on the evidence you need to provide please contact the Student Experience Officer Leah Dempsey – SAW@lstmed.ac.uk
 - For more information you can refer to Disability Rights UK website: <http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/how-we-can-help/helplines/disabled-students-helpline>
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What Happens When I Disclose a Disability?

- Completion of the questionnaire will help the Student Experience Officer to learn about you, your circumstances and the effects your disability has on your learning environment. It's the first step towards creating your "Individual Learning Plan," which is your bespoke plan of academic and personal support. Some support can take time to implement so it's important that you complete and return this questionnaire along with your supporting medical evidence as soon as possible.
 - When you have disclosed a disability, the Student Experience Officer will contact you to arrange a confidential meeting where support arrangements will be discussed in detail.
 - The support that is available to you depends on your individual requirements. A specialist Needs Assessor will identify the support that you require in order to remove barriers to learning, whether that's additional time in examinations or access to assistive technology. LSTM uses inclusive teaching methods to enhance your learning experience.
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Examples of Academic Support can include:

- Examination arrangements
- (E.g. extra time, a reader, a scribe, use of a PC, rest breaks, separate room, use of ergonomic furniture).
- Library services
- (E.g. extra time on library loans, photocopying and printing allowance).
- Specialist equipment
- (E.g. loan of digital voice recorders, specialist accessibility software, ergonomic equipment and other aids).
- Study Skills Mentor

- (E.g. assistance with time management, advice on structuring academic work, note making techniques and/ or research skills with a suitably qualified study skills tutor).

In addition, you may be referred to other types of support, such as confidential services outside of LSTM. For example, you may be signposted to services such as Occupational Health at the Well-Travelled Clinic.
