



Admissions Processes for Disabled Applicants

Opening Statement

The University welcomes applications from disabled people and is committed to the principle of fair access as set out in the Equality Act (2010). The admissions procedures for applicants who declare a disability will ensure that applicants are not disadvantaged and are judged on their merits and abilities to fulfill the learning outcomes of the proposed course of study. Applications from disabled people are assessed following standard procedures (See Section 7 of Admissions Policy) and consideration of support requirements will remain entirely separate.

The University will endeavor to provide all the necessary information to allow applicants to make an informed decision in respect of their options and will make reasonable adjustments for all identified disabled applicants. It is the applicant's responsibility to declare information about their disability and where requested, provide appropriate supporting evidence.

Admissions procedure for disabled applicants

When applying, applicants will be invited to select a disability code from the following:

- A - No disability;
- B - You have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder;
- C - You are blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses;
- D - You are deaf or have a serious hearing impairment;
- E - You have a long-standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy;
- F - You have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety

disorder;

G - You have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D;

H - You have physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches;

I - You have a disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above;

J - You have two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions.

Applicants who have indicated a disability from any of the Categories B-J should be invited to indicate any particular adjustments required to the selection process. The following will be considered:

1. Does the applicant require adjustments in the selection process to ensure that they are treated fairly (e.g. extra time for written exercises; sign language interpreters for group exercises)? This may necessitate asking for additional information from the applicant and discussing what adjustments they feel would be appropriate for the activities they need to undertake as part of the selection process. This information will only be used for determining provision of support and will not be part of the admission decision.
2. Are the adjustments requested by the applicant reasonable? In the unlikely event that adjustments cannot be made in the selection process, the applicant will be supported to consider alternative options.
3. Where a course has PBSR requirements, applicants will be referred to occupational health to ensure that they can meet the fitness standards as set out in HEOPS (Higher Education Occupational Physicians/Practitioners). Reasonable adjustments will also be considered through this process.
4. For disabled applicants going through the clearing process, Admissions Staff should provide Student Services with information as soon as possible, to avoid unnecessary delays in the provision of information and support and in arranging adjustments for the student on their programme of study.

Admissions decisions and information will be recorded on SITS and disabled applicants holding conditional or unconditional firm offers at Teesside University will be contacted by Student Services. Information will be sent direct from Student Services to the student, with details about how to access and organize support for reasonable adjustments. This will include the need for applicants to provide appropriate evidence and discuss support needs with a Disability Adviser. Applicants should be encouraged to do this as early as possible as it may take time to organize adjustments.

In the unlikely event that adjustments cannot be made to support the student to meet the requirements of their course of study, the University will offer the applicant support in submitting an alternative application.

Further information about disability and dyslexia support at Teesside University can be found at: https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/student-support/student_disabilities.cfm