

Information for Assessors (22/23)

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Course Information

Detailed information on all University of Portsmouth courses can be found on our website

<https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses>

Recommendations for Reasonable Adjustment

General

We welcome contact from assessors that may wish to discuss a student's study needs. Whilst assessors will make recommendations for support funded through the DSA, we ask they do not suggest adjustments for the University in accordance with 1.7 DSA guidance. It would be helpful if you could please detail the impact on study and advise that there may be additional support available that could be discussed with ASDAC. Our intention is not to set up unrealistic expectation but to encourage the student to engage with us to agree the support to ensure progression and reduction in barriers to learning.

The following information should support you in your assessment of individual student requirements but where you have concerns or questions this document cannot answer, please contact us directly and we will be happy to help.

Teaching and Assessment

'Sympathetic' Marking

There are no sympathetic or two-tier marking arrangements at Portsmouth. While all reasonable adjustments to the processes of assessment are made, no adjustment is made to the outcome. Instead, the emphasis is on the student's use of assistive technology, provision of relevant study skills support and appropriate adjustments to the assessment process.

Adjustments to course work deadlines

Unplanned extension of coursework deadlines as a general adjustment for disability is not available at Portsmouth. Our support is designed to enable students to manage their deadlines effectively.

Any unplanned adjustment of deadlines arising through unforeseen worsening of a known disability is provided through the University's Extenuating Circumstances framework.

Proof Reading

The University does not recognise proof reading as an appropriate support strategy, as the expectation is that submitted products are entirely the student's own work. Instead, students are provided with study skills techniques and the associated technology to enable them to proof read their own work.

Extended Loans

The University Library does not offer extended loan periods, rather the opportunity to renew the loan where the book is not already reserved by another borrower. Where a student's disability prevents them from fully utilising the resources within the loan periods available they are encouraged to use the DSA General Allowance to cover the costs of either photocopying materials or the purchase of key texts.

Exams Support

We will make decisions on suitable adjustments based on the impact of the condition and expected learning outcomes. Reasonable adjustment will be agreed on a case by case basis.

E-Learning and Recording

The University promotes active use of its virtual learning environment (Moodle) where copies of course materials are maintained.

Students who wish to do so are also permitted to record lectures, provided this is only for the purposes of supporting their own studies.

Transport and Parking

Parking for Blue Badge Holders Only

Parking within the University's car parks is limited and the council actively discourages bringing cars into the city. Priority parking is only considered for those students who possess a disabled persons parking badge (Blue Badge Scheme). For these students a free parking permit can be applied for to allow them to use the accessible parking bays. There is no guarantee that spaces will always be available in the immediate vicinity of each University building. We do not provide reserved parking places for specific individuals.

Taxis

Those who do not qualify for a University parking permit, but for reasons of disability need to park nearby, are encouraged to apply for DSA contributions towards alternative transport costs such as taxis.

Please note that those requiring taxis within the city of Portsmouth area would otherwise be able to access free transportation using the University's bus service. The funding authority should not deduct an equivalent public transport cost from the student's expenses where this is recommended.

Student Housing

The University can consider prioritising Halls accommodation for students where the associated issues will impact on their ability to live in the standard/private housing. This does not apply to students with Specific Learning differences where there is additional support to assist with organisational difficulties.

University provision

All our tutors have professional teaching qualifications and accredited qualifications in teaching students with Specific Learning Difference and ASC. ASDAC provides the following support in-house.

Specialist One-to-One Study Skills Support (SpLD and ASC)

Cost band 4, £62 per hour-VAT is not applicable

Assistive Technology Training

Cost band 4, £62 per hour-VAT is not applicable

ASDAC's assistive technology training aims to maximise the relevance and utility of the

hardware/software within the student's specific course context in an approach that emphasises associated study skills as much as the technical features of the package concerned.

ASDAC's tutors have extensive expertise of all the software packages currently recommended by needs assessors and update their knowledge through continuing professional development.

We would ask assessors to take into consideration that each piece of software requires around 2 hours support to ensure the student is able to use it effectively.

Cancellation and Non-Attendance

Guidance on our cancellation policy can be found here:

<https://articlehub.port.ac.uk/portal/articles/3898>

External Provision

We work closely with the following preferred suppliers of NMH support:

Autism Hampshire- Specialist Mentoring

Autism Hampshire provide specialist mentoring support. This is offered to students with autistic spectrum conditions and other disabilities through outreach provision. The support includes social and communication skills, transition to University, independent learning strategies and assistance with many general study skills (e.g. organisation and time keeping).

Clear Links

Clear Links provide a range of support worker services including specialist mentoring. Our long-standing and close working relationship with them ensures good communication regarding support levels, and enables us to monitor and review support where a student may have failed to engage appropriately. For further details and rates see

<http://www.clear-links.co.uk/> .

First Class Support

First class provide a range of support worker services including note-taking, mobility & classroom assistance and exam support. For further details and rates see [First Class Support \(firstclass-support.co.uk\)](http://www.firstclass-support.co.uk)

Interpreting Services

Interpreting Services can be accessed by a number of suppliers depending on the level required.

This might include Clarion: <https://www.clarion-uk.com/sectors/education/> or Sonus

<http://sonus.org.uk/>

Associated University Provision (Non-DSA)

Student Wellbeing Service

The Student Wellbeing Service is the hub for learning, advice and support for emotional wellbeing and mental health. Students can get free, confidential help for a wide range of personal and emotional concerns.

Workshops are run throughout the year and include:

Living and Learning Well with Autism

The session content is student-led and this enables the group to respond to different needs over the course of the academic year.

This group is for students with autism, or those awaiting a diagnostic assessment

The group is student-led and topics and their order are decided by the group. Topics can vary from year to year but can include skills for:

- Regulating emotions, (including anxiety, low mood and anger)
- Learning to balance your sensory experiences
- Building healthy relationships and managing difficult situations
- Planning and organisation at University
- Motivation and procrastination
- Regulating energy levels

Further Wellbeing Workshops are outlined on the Student Wellbeing Service Web page

General Study Support

The University provides extensive generic and course-specific study skills tuition and support for all students through their programmes of study along with extended support with the Academic Skills Unit and Maths Café.

Course related Software

Training on the use and applications of all course-related hardware and software is delivered by the academic department.

Networked Assistive Software

Networked Assistive Software is available for all students to use whilst on campus and includes:

- Claro Read Plus
- Text Help: Read and Write
- Mind View
- Inspiration
- Zoom Text
- Super Nova Magnifier and Screen Reader

DSA: Student contribution to computer costs

Students who are awarded computers through their DSA funding can apply for a £200 contribution to the cost through the University Student Support fund.

Inclusion

The University aims to be an inclusive institution, accessible to all students.

More information on can be found at <https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/corporate-governance/equality-and-diversity>

For access details on our University Buildings visit: <https://www.accessable.co.uk/university-of-portsmouth>

We aim to minimise the number of specific adjustments that need to be made for individual students by providing an educational experience and environment that is already as accessible as reasonably possible. This creates opportunities for students to access and address their studies as independently as is possible.