

SHOW AND TELL

Disabled Student Support: Learner Development Service

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The Learner Development Service provides

- Comprehensive advice, assessment and support for disabled students including the production of Personal Learning Plans. Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) are documents advising staff about the reasonable adjustments they may need to make for individual students (this is a legal requirement).
- Dyslexia screenings and onward referrals. We can support students in obtaining diagnosis of Learning Difficulties, such as dyslexia, through Educational Psychologists.
- A service for dealing with external agencies. We work closely with external funding bodies and assessment centres to facilitate student support.
- Ongoing support for students with complex and more challenging needs. Where shortfalls in funding occur, our Advisers are very good at saving the university money through reducing overspends by looking at more cost effective ways of offering support, in discussion with the student.

- Advice for staff on student-related disability issues. An Adviser is available to pick up queries from staff in person/phone or e-mail every day. We can come out and meet with staff and work in partnership to support students with complex difficulties.
- Guidance on potential legal issues. We try to intervene as early as possible to avoid matters escalating into legal disputes. Where necessary, we consult with other disability professionals in the HE sector and also the MMU Legal Team.
- Staff development and training (e.g. PLP and Disclosure training, resources on the LDS and CeLT web sites, attendance at Faculty Disability meetings).

Anticipated impact of £9K fees

- Increase in student expectations
 - Students will be more aware of their legal rights
 - Student may become more demanding consumers
 - There may be increased parental involvement in student support and interaction with the University

Learner Development Service - current developments

- We are carrying out a number of evaluation exercises and working on more student centred approaches (based upon feedback).
- We are working on an inclusive teaching practice project which will benefit all students.
- We are working with www.jobs4students.com and offering employment opportunities to students for some support roles e.g. notetakers and thereby linking in with the MMU employability strategy.
- We are updating our website to ensure students are clear on what we can/cannot offer i.e. managing student expectations.
- We are raising awareness of *Texthelp* and *Inspiration* software availability on all MMU computers and how this can benefit students.

Other support roles within MMU

- Departmental Disability Coordinators (an academic member of staff that coordinates the support for disabled students within a department)
- Student Life Office Managers
- Faculty Student Support Officers (provide support for all students including study skills workshops)
- Careers and Employability Service
- Counselling, Health and Wellbeing Service
- ELSIS (Languages) (English language support for International Students)

How to contact us

Learner Development Service

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