

Support for Disabled Students

The Student Wellbeing Service at Newcastle University offers confidential advice to current and prospective students who have a disability, long-term mental health condition, or a specific learning difficulty.

The Service is located in our new, purpose-built student services building, King's Gate, in the heart of campus. Contact details for the Student Wellbeing Service can be found at the end of this leaflet.

Location and Accessibility

The University is located on the northern edge of the city centre, is easily accessible from the city and is well served by public transport. The majority of campus is accessible to wheelchair users and those areas that are not accessible are clearly marked on our campus map. You can request a copy of the map from us (contact details are at the end of this leaflet), or download the map from our website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/about/visit/maps

We can arrange for you to visit the University, either before or after you apply, to discuss the facilities and the support you may require.

Study and Academic Support

Subject Area Support

With your agreement we can contact the relevant subject staff before you begin your studies, to discuss their role in helping you access the curriculum. This might include providing large-print handouts or the extension of deadlines. On arrival in Newcastle all students are allocated a personal tutor, who is there to help with any concerns you may have.

Support Workers

The University uses professional support agencies that provide support workers who can assist with study-related tasks, such as note-taking or library assistance. We also work with agencies that can provide a range of other support, for example BSL/English Interpreters.

Support for Specific Learning Disabilities

For students who have, or think they may have a specific learning disability, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia, we can offer the following support:

- one-to-one study support with a qualified tutor*
- arrangement of appropriate examination concessions
- diagnostic assessment with a chartered psychologist
- advice on applying for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)
- advice and support for students who think they may have dyslexia
- advice and information for academic and support staff who work with students with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties

*Please note that there is a high demand for one-to-one support for specific learning disabilities and although every effort is made to allocate students to tutors as quickly as possible, there may be a waiting list.

Lecture Theatres

Access to lecture theatres for students with mobility issues varies from building to building but the University will make every effort to locate lectures in appropriate buildings. Several of our lecture theatres are fitted with induction loops.

JUNAC (Assessment Centre)

The Student Wellbeing Service works closely with the Joint Universities Northern Assessment Centre (JUNAC). JUNAC can arrange to assess students' needs for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) purposes.

A wide range of equipment and software is available through JUNAC for demonstration and assessment purposes. This includes, among other items, several PCs, screen readers, a magnifier and voice recognition software. Some equipment is available on a loan basis through the hardware loans scheme.

Assessment and Examinations

The University is committed to ensuring that disabled students are assessed appropriately. We recognise that some students may require specific arrangements in order to facilitate their full participation in the University examination and assessment process. These special arrangements could include additional time for examinations, someone to write on your behalf, or the use of specialist equipment.

Please contact the Student Wellbeing Service to discuss these arrangements in further detail.

Library and Information Service

Our University Library Service is the only one in the UK to have been awarded the government's Charter Mark for excellent customer service five times in a row, in recognition of its high-quality learning environment.

Our main library, the Robinson Library, is fully accessible to students with mobility issues and aims to offer assistance and support wherever possible to any user who is deaf, has a disability, or a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia. The Library includes CCTV reading aids, additional lighting, low-level library catalogue terminals and photocopiers, and three pre-bookable study rooms. In addition, the University will, where possible, provide texts in Braille on request to Student Services. www.ncl.ac.uk/library/about/access/accessibility

Computing Facilities

Students can use our network of 1,300 PCs across campus to access electronic resources and use course software. There is also a docking service, which enables students to connect their own computers on campus and in halls of residence.

Our computers have a number of specialist software applications installed, including Texthelp Read and Write, Inspiration and SuperNova. Height-adjustable desks are also available in our main clusters.

Assistance is provided from staffed Help Desks in the Robinson Library, the Medical School and the Old Library Building, and by phone from other locations. Students can also borrow small items of equipment from the Hardware Loan Scheme.

Specialist software is available to support students with disabilities. We also have a hardware loans scheme, which provides a range of assistive technology.

Further information about the accessibility of our computing facilities can be found on the University website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/iss/easyaccess

The Careers Service

The Careers Service provides assistance for students at all stages of their career planning, and a wide selection of materials is available for students to use. This includes information on employers with a track record of employing graduates with disabilities, professional organisations for people with disabilities, and specific employment legislation. More information about the Careers Service can be obtained from their website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/careers

Accommodation

The University has a range of accessible accommodation close to the campus, including catered accommodation and self-catered flats and houses. Designated parking spaces are available at all accommodation sites for disabled persons, free of charge. It is advisable to contact the Accommodation Service before choosing your accommodation to decide which option will be right for you. If you have particular requirements you may be given special consideration when we allocate you a place in accommodation. To request this, you will need to complete the relevant part of the online Accommodation Application Form. More information about University accommodation is available on the Accommodation Service website at: www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation

Financial Support

If you face additional costs during your studies because you have a disability, long-term health condition or specific learning difficulty or mental health condition you may be eligible for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs). These allowances can help with the cost of a non-medical helper, specialist computer software and major items of equipment, as well as travel and other costs. Staff in the Student Wellbeing Service can give you assistance with your DSA application and help to arrange a DSA needs assessment. The cost of the DSA needs assessment will be met through the Disabled Students' Allowances.

Further information on financial support for disabled students can be found on the Directgov website at: www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance

Students with Disabilities Officer

Within the Students' Union there is a student officer who has particular responsibility for representing the views of students with disabilities.

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities

The University is a member of SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. SKILL provides useful advice for students with disabilities. They can be contacted at:

SKILL: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities
Unit 3, Floor 3, Radisson Court
219 Long Lane
London SE1 4PR
Telephone: 0800 328 5050
E-mail: info@skill.org.uk
www.skill.org.uk

Further Information

If you have any further questions or would like to know more about any of the services mentioned here, please contact the Student Wellbeing Service. This leaflet is also available in alternative formats such as large text, on request from:

Student Wellbeing Service
Student Services
Newcastle University, King's Gate
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU
United Kingdom
Telephone: 0191 208 3333
(International) +44 191 208 3333
Enquire online at: www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries
www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing