What is the Student Disability Service (SDS)?

The aim of the service is to assist students with disabilities to access appropriate support so that they can take full advantage of the university experience.

The service supports over 3000 students, including those with:

- specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia
- AD/HD
- mental health challenges
- sensory impairment
- mobility impairment
- autism spectrum conditions
- long term health conditions

Support offered includes:

- liaising with academic departments;
- arranging examination accommodations and other reasonable adjustments;
- loan of specialist equipment.

For more information about accessing support at the University if you have a disability, please visit our website: Student Disability Service

Access arrangements for examinations

If you think you are entitled to extra time or other reasonable adjustments in exams you need to contact SDS. A Disability Advisor will discuss your needs with you and inform the relevant parties accordingly.

Further information, including deadlines for requesting exam accommodations, is provided by the Examinations Office, via: Exam Arrangements

Please note that alternative exam arrangements may be made by your Department during the COVID 19 pandemic. Extra time will only apply to traditional timed exams and not to papers completed remotely over 24-48 hours.

Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSAs)

Some distance learning (including part-time) home students may be entitled to DSAs to fund specialist equipment, assistive technology and 1 to 1 support. In order to apply, students must provide evidence that clearly meets the definition of disability in Section 6 of the Equality Act (2010).

Students may wish to discuss the application with a Disability Advisor via email or Zoom.

For more information, see: Disabled Students’ Allowances

Contacting SDS

Typically, we will communicate with you via email.

However, if you feel you need to speak to a Disability Advisor, online appointments can be arranged by emailing: disability@contacts.bham.ac.uk
Software for Personal Use
Students can access Office 365, which includes Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote and Lync. In addition to PC and Mac, this is also available on Android, iOS and Windows Phone, enabling Office content viewing and editing on the go. See: Office 365

Other free software, including RefWorks, Mind Manager, MATLAB and SPSS can be found at: My Software

Assistive Technology
Diversity and Ability (DNA) have compiled a list of assistive technology, including open source (free) assistive software. See: DnA Resources for more information.

Wellbeing Support
The Mental Health and Wellbeing Service offers a wide range support. For information, see: Your Wellbeing

In collaboration with Forward Thinking Birmingham, we provide professional mental health support for students up to the age of 25. For details of remote support, see PAUSE Mental Health Support during COVID 19

We also work in partnership with Kooth to provide online support for individuals in Birmingham aged up to 25 years. See Kooth online mental wellbeing community to determine your preferred way of engaging with them.

Our Self-help Apps can help you manage anxiety and stress during these uncertain times.

Please speak to your GP about appropriate local support.

School-based Support
Each School has its own Wellbeing Officer(s) who can provide support remotely if you have problems that could affect your academic work. To find your Wellbeing Officer(s), see: Find your Wellbeing Officer(s)

Students with ASCs
Information and coping tips for students with autism can be found at:

Practical Tips During COVID 19 and Autistica Resources

Library Services
All UoB libraries and learning centres can offer support to disabled students. See: Library Services Accessibility for details.

For library services offered to Distance Learners, including the use of other libraries, catalogues and databases, see: Library Services for Distance and Part-Time Learners

Subject Support
A range of resources for your discipline can be found at: Library Subject Support

See also: Academic Skills Resources

The Graduate School provides a range of online skill development workshops for students on Post Graduate Research programmes, including study skills. See: PGR Skills Development

The Guild of Students
The Guild offers advice on a range of aspects relating to student life, including academic and financial matters. See: Guild Advice

Search our FAQs or ask a question via: www.studenthelp.bham.ac.uk