



# Physical Disability

## ***Key Support Actions***

- Take into consideration physical access in choosing locations for any student interaction
- Include additional time requirements for students who may have difficulties with speaking
- Provide handouts in electronic format, PowerPoint slides and any other materials in advance
- Keep timetables and venues consistent. This allows for any support workers to attend

## ***What does physical disability mean?***

Students with a physical disability may have difficulties with mobility, manual dexterity and speech. Some may use a wheelchair all or some of the time.

They may need support with personal care. Some physical disabilities fluctuate in impact.

## ***Impact on study***

Students with a physical disability may need support in the following areas:

- Managing to get to different learning activities, allow time to move between teaching venues
- Carrying materials needed for study
- Notetaking may be needed
- Participating in group discussions, they may take longer to ask or answer questions

## ***Inclusive teaching***

These are strategies of benefit to all students but will also help to remove barriers from students with physical disability:

- Written feedback is helpful, as it allows the student to avoid the need to write notes
- Lecture notes and supervision handouts in written format, so that the student can make their own electronic notes during the lecture/supervision
- Extended library loans, book fetch service
- Permission to record lectures, so that the student has time to make their own notes

- Reserved seating to allow for student to have accessible seating
- Timetables to accommodate the time it takes to travel between different learning activities
- Consistent timetables and location for all teaching activities

### ***Reasonable Adjustments***

- Regular meetings to review adjustments and to ensure that the student's support is being met. This can be with the tutors and department
- 24 hours' notice of change of venue, so that the student can rearrange human support if needed
- Rest breaks due to fatigue
- Extended deadlines may be required
- Consider whether assignments can be pre-recorded or an oral presentation given instead
- Support with practicals, this may include an assistant or additional assistance with the set-up
- Prepare well in advance for fieldwork, to enable accessibility and to allow the student to prepare
- The student may need a scribe for exams or access to specialist software. They may need help from a PA. This should be agreed well in advance of the examination

### ***Technology Support/Human Support***

- Students with a physical disability may use a range of human support. This is known as Non-Medical Help and usually funded through the Disabled Students' Allowance. International students' support is funded by LSE
- Support can be in the form of notetaking and/or recording, library assistance, or practical support

### ***The legal position***

If a student has a physical disability, where this is substantial and long-term, then they are likely to meet the definition of a disabled person under the Equality Act (2010). This requires the University to make reasonable adjustments and not to treat the student less favourably for reasons relating to their disability.

*This guide has been produced for LSE by the Disability and Mental Health Service, with credit to the Accessibility and Disability Resource Centre at University of Cambridge who kindly permitted use of their staff guides in production of our own.*