Student Disability Service

Challenging Attitudes

Mainstreaming Equality
What is the Student Disability Service?

- **Team of Advisors and Admin staff:** offering guidance and support
- **Psychologists:** Educational and Clinical, carry out diagnostic assessments
- **Other staff include:** Mental Health Mentors, SpLD Tutors, Asperger’s Mentor, Proofreaders and more
- **Iansyst:** external company delivering AT training and loaning equipment.
Who do we support?

Students whose studies are affected by:

- Disability
- Physical health condition
- Long-term MH condition
- Learning difficulty
- Temporary injury.
Where are we?

Student Disability Service:
Third Floor
Main Library Building
George Square

With Student Counselling and Careers Services.

Also see students in other locations and can arrange Skype, phone or email appointments.
Referral process

- Student must have evidence of condition
- Student must have contact with an Advisor
- Advisor discusses support and refers on to 1:1 specialists as required
- A schedule of adjustments may also be produced and circulated.
What is acceptable evidence?

- Current report from a Psychologist – SDS can arrange
- Letter from doctor, consultant, psychiatrist etc.
- Don’t need formal diagnosis, but letter must be current
- Cannot accept list previous of adjustments or support
- Cannot accept Counsellor’s letter
- Evidence necessary for funding.
Wheelchair users

- A wheelchair is part of a person’s space
- Talk to the person, not their companion or assistant
- Ask before offering assistance
- Do not push a person’s wheelchair unless asked
- Do not lean on a person’s wheelchair.
Other Mobility Impairments

- May not always be obvious - not all mobility impaired people use wheelchairs
- Allow for space if student uses walking aids
- Ask student if they prefer to use a lift or stairs.
Hearing Impairment

- If there is an interpreter, speak to the deaf person
- If student lip reads, look directly at them, speak slowly and clearly, face the light, keep hands away from your face
- Written notes may help
- Do not shout or exaggerate your lip movements
- It's OK to say ‘have you heard about…’
Blind/Partially Sighted People

- Identify yourself and introduce others present
- Offer an arm; don’t propel
- Place person’s hand on the back of a chair if offering a seat
- Say when you are moving away from conversation
- It’s OK to say ‘have you seen……’
Hidden Impairments

- Pain, epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, M.E. Crohn’s disease, multiple allergies, mental health problems, eating disorders, dyslexia and many more………..

- Knowing the impairment is not essential

- Knowing the student’s needs is essential.
Specific Learning Difficulties

- Dyslexia
- Dyspraxia
- Dyscalculia
- ADD or AD(H)D
- Asperger’s Syndrome, Autistic Spectrum
Mental Health Conditions

- Team of 10 GHC staff
- Mental health social workers, psychiatric nurses etc.
- Study skills support in a mental health context
- Appointments can be face to face, phone or Skype
- Can support for duration of studies.
Any Questions?
For further information

www.ed.ac.uk/student-disability-service