

Disability Strategy

Preamble:

LCBMCS welcomes applications from students with specific learning difficulties and disabilities. We are committed to a policy, which allows, as far as possible, for equality of opportunity and access to higher and further education. Central to this policy is the following statement, which is contained within the charter of the College:

“No discrimination on account of disability, race, gender or belief shall be shown against any person in determining whether such a person shall be admitted as a Member of the College, or appointed to its staff, or shall hold any advantage or privilege thereof.”

For the purposes of this statement, definitions of disability are set by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and Wales (HEFCE) and include specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and dyspraxia. This is an area of support that the College is also committed to resourcing and developing.

Aims:

The College's Disability Strategy aims to outline and implement its provision for students with disabilities and/or specific learning difficulties. The College indeed is committed to implanting a culture of support and equal opportunities for students with disabilities or learning difficulties. Central to our provision is our Student Welfare Officer, also acting as Disability Co-ordinator, who oversees the development of the provision.

Objectives:

- To provide fair and equal treatment of all students;
- To comply with current legislation under the Disability Discrimination Act;
- To comply with standard Code of Practice for the Assurance of Academic and Quality and Standards in Further Education

Policy:

The College will guarantee:

- That applicants and students are given the opportunity to disclose a disability or learning difficulty;

- That the requirements of applicants or students who disclose a disability or learning difficulty are assessed on an individual basis;
- That reasonable adjustments are provided, within the resources available, for applicants or students who disclose a disability or learning difficulty;
- That all discussions and information regarding a disability or learning difficulty are treated in a confidential manner.

Examples of Adjustments:

Examples of adjustments include but are not limited to:

- Additional time in tests and examinations;
- Extended loans in the library;
- Facility to record lectures;
- Flagging examination scripts written by a dyslexic student without disclosing the identity of the student, enabling academic staff to take the learning difficulty into consideration when marking the script. Academic staff will be provided with guidelines on marking scripts written by dyslexic students
- Separate room provided to accommodate all students with additional time in tests and examinations;
- Use of computer in tests and examinations;

In the case of non-standard adjustments, the Course Coordinator will be involved in any discussions regarding adjustments to ensure that academic rigour is maintained and that the necessary resources are available.

Seeking Guidance from Bodies:

For special circumstances, where the College cannot be able to meet any special need(s) of its students with learning difficulties, the CHC will seek guidance from bodies, such as the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA), the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC), the Independent Living Fund (ILF), the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Council (DPTAC), or any other appropriate bodies.

Provision to Declaration of Learning Needs:

With the active involvement of both staff and students, provision is constantly being developed and improved, to add to the learning experience of all our students. Our Disability Strategy is closely linked to our teaching and learning strategy to ensure access to the curriculum. It is therefore important that we are

aware of your needs so that, where possible, we can work with you to help support you. In order to facilitate students with a provision to declare their special learning needs, the College have the following arrangements:

- The Application form of the College has specific section for students to declare their special needs.
- The College advises its agents to notify the details of any potential learners' special needs.
- While holding interview online or face-to-face, the College marketing manager/officers ask learners whether they have any special needs.
- During enrolment, the College admission office does the same so that appropriate special arrangements can be made well in advance. Students

Psychologist's report:

In necessary, students with learning difficulties are requested to provide an educational psychologist's report in order to enable the College to assess their needs appropriately and entitle them to the necessary adjustments.