

Registering with Disability Services

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If you have a disability or health condition that affects your study, you can make an appointment with a Disability Services Student Advisor to discuss your needs.

Examples of a disability or health condition include:

- Dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and other specific learning disabilities,
- Autism spectrum disorder (including Asperger syndrome),
- Other conditions which impact on neurological functioning such as ADHD or traumatic brain injury,
- Anxiety, depression and other mental health issues,
- Physical impairment arising from conditions such as cerebral palsy,
- Hearing impairment,
- Blindness and vision impairment,
- Medical conditions causing symptoms such as pain, fatigue and loss of concentration.

Members of the Deaf community who use NZ Sign Language are also be eligible for support arrangements.

Disability related documentation

To be eligible for support arrangements, you need to register with Disability Services. Please bring relevant disability related documentation to your appointment with a Disability Services Advisor. This documentation is a report from an appropriate professional that gives relevant information about your disability or health condition and describes how this may affect your study.

If you have a physical or mental health condition, you can bring documentation from medical or mental health practitioners; if you have a vision or hearing impairment, you will need a visual or auditory assessment that outlines the nature and severity of your impairment. If you have a specific learning disability such as dyslexia, you will require documentation from a relevant professional such as an educational psychologist. In Christchurch, centres such as the Seabrook McKenzie Centre, the Hagley Diagnostic Unit and the Psychology Centre (at Canterbury University) provide such learning assessments (at a cost of about \$500).

Students with learning difficulties and no documentation

If you have concerns about your learning difficulties but you have not had a formal learning assessment, then you should make an appointment with Learning Services or Disability Services staff to discuss your concerns and explore support options.

Individual Access Plan

With the Advisor, you will develop an Individual Access Plan that describes your disability and how it affects your study and records any support arrangements. We will ask you to sign this plan to indicate your agreement with it, and then we will arrange the agreed support. We will send a copy of the plan to relevant academic staff in your programme to give them some information about your situation.

Disability Services staff in Christchurch

Christine Brennan Disability Services Coordinator

Rose Edgar Student Advisor

Helena Tai Student Advisor

Phone for appointments or information: Academic Support Service Desk – (03) 940 8089

Email: disability@ara.ac.nz Text: 027 540 8364

Disability support in Timaru

Carol Soal Phone: (03) 687 1814 Email: carol.soal@ara.ac.nz

Carol is in Student Central through the main entrance on Arthur Street. She is available 8am to 4.30pm.

Disability support in Ashburton: first stop

Sharon Lloyd Phone: (03) 940 6131 Email: disability@ara.ac.nz

Sharon is at the Service Desk through the main entrance.

Disability support in Oamaru: first stop

Ruth Dickson Phone: (03) 687 1800 Email: disability@ara.ac.nz

Ruth is at the Service Desk through the main entrance.

Christchurch City Campus and Woolston campus: where to find us

The Disability Services office is on the ground floor of the Library at Christchurch City Campus.

Disability Services staff are available Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm.

For disability support at the Woolston campus, contact staff in the Learning Services office in SSB or phone to make an appointment with Disability Services staff.

Contacts for learning assessments in Christchurch:

Seabrook McKenzie Centre: <http://www.seabrookmckenzie.net/>

Hagley Diagnostic Unit: <http://www.hagley.school.nz/student-information/diagnostic-centre/>

The Psychology Centre, Canterbury University: <http://www.psychclinic.canterbury.ac.nz/>