Dyspraxia Strategies for Faculties to Support Achievement

Dyspraxia, or Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) is a condition affecting movement and co-ordination. Weaknesses in organisation and ‘clumsiness’ may be apparent, affecting practical activities and organising information into a structured format may prove difficult.

The following guidelines will support this student to access and achieve positive results on your course.

### Student Attributes

- Determination
- Motivation
- Strategic thinking

### Student challenges

- Processing information quickly when process are novel or lack practice
- Writing legibly
- Keeping up with note taking
- Clarity in notetaking
- Prioritising and planning time
- Organisational difficulties
- Motor co-ordination difficulties
- Group work
- Structuring written work
- Social interaction
- Dealing with emotions

### Handouts, PowerPoints and Written Information

It is advisable to:
• Provide PowerPoints at the beginning of a module or at least a week in advance of a lecture, to enable the student to prepare and print information.
• Use sans serif font e.g. Arial, Lucinda Sans, Calibri.
• Justify text to the left to provide even spacing between words which supports tracking.
• Use a 12pt font with a minimum of 1.5 spacing to support tracking.
• Break down long pieces of text, using headings, bullet points and using **bold** to identify key words.
• Number the slides to reduce order confusion when printed.
• Use a minimum of 24pt font in power points.
• Make all material accessible so that students can change font, size, background colour etc. to suit their learning needs.
• Place a full stop at the end of bullet points, so there is a pause between points when students use text to speech software.

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**Lecture / Seminar**

Students benefit from preparation:
• Give a course overview at the start of the academic year; a yearly calendar of when assignments are due, exams dates and when the reading week is, etc.
• Balance presentations and activities where possible.
• Present material in different ways using visual aids, such as graphs, flow charts, mind-maps, video clips, music, pictures and colour.
• To avoid confusion, back up what you say in a lecture with the same written information or instructions.
• Staple lecture notes together to avoid order confusion.
• Provide written instructions as well as oral whenever possible
• Introduce new topics by providing an overview first.
• Use concrete examples to aid understanding.

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**Assignments And Essay Questions**

• Break assignments down into manageable chunks.
• Use clear font for marking grids and learning outcomes
• Give specific guidelines, e.g. how many references/citations per point; word count for different sections.
• Meet with students to reassure them on their assignment plan.
• Can all or part of an assignment be produced in an alternative
Reading Lists

Students benefit from clear reading lists:
- Use a sans serif font e.g. Arial, Lucinda Sans, Calibri in 12pt font, with a minimum of 1.15 spacing.
- Split into essential, extra and exceptional categories to support students to prioritise their reading.
- Use a line space between each reference to differentiate one reference from another.

Practical Activities

Students may require:
- More room than others at work stations.
- Encourage an uncluttered working environment.
- Time to process information.
- Time to plan and organise what they are doing.
- Opportunities for practice and repetition to clarify processes.
- Careful pairing within groups.
- Increased time and space when handling sensitive materials.
- Discreetly asking the student what would be helpful to them.

Use Assistive Technology

- Allow the use of iPads in seminars to listen to written material if they struggle to read quickly (text to speech).
- Encourage the use of Dictaphones, laptops, iPads and iPhones.
- Information on podcasts is available at: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/computing/elearn/podcast/
- Encourage students to use apps:
  - Inspiration for mind mapping.
  - Zotero for referencing.
  - Pomodoro to support efficiency.
  - Quizlet or Study Shack to develop flashcards for revision.
  - Robobraille.org will convert written text such as book pages into accessible formats.
## Recording lectures and seminars

Students may benefit from recording information:

- Allow students to record lectures/seminars on their own devices e.g. phones/laptops. It enables students to focus on the lecture content and gives students time to process information.
- Panopto is a video platform available in some lecture theatres and is available at: [http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/computing/elearn/panopto/](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/computing/elearn/panopto/)

## Sharing and Further Information

- All tutors/lecturers should be made aware of the student’s SpLD.
- The information in this Student Support Recommendation must be shared if the student studies a module with another faculty, or goes on placement or abroad.
- The following website provides information on accessibility and inclusive practice: [https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/study_support/information_for_staff.page](https://www.southampton.ac.uk/edusupport/study_support/information_for_staff.page)

## Resources

Study Skills resources are available at: [http://library.soton.ac.uk/sash](http://library.soton.ac.uk/sash)

- An interactive Study Skills Toolkit is available via Blackboard.

Further information for students and tutor support is available from:

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