

What happens in a Needs Assessment

The purpose of the assessment is to work out what equipment and/or support will best help you overcome the difficulties caused by your condition(s), so that you are not disadvantaged compared to your fellow students. The assessment is completely non-judgmental.

The needs assessor will ask you to explain in your own words what effect your disability has on your ability to study. To help you with this it would be useful to have a look at the 'Things to think about before your needs assessment' document, which can be found within the Useful Downloads section at the bottom of this page. For all students, the assessment is an opportunity for their concerns to be heard and taken seriously. For some students, the assessment may be the first time they have been able to express their concerns in a sympathetic environment.

You can only be assessed for disabilities for which proof has been provided and accepted by your funding body. An assessor cannot make recommendations relating to a disability that is disclosed during the needs assessment.

Most students only require one needs assessment, but if you have a more complex disability your assessor may recommend a further appointment with a specialist, such as an ergonomic specialist or other professional who can help work out exactly what additional equipment or support you may require to fully assist you on your course.

The assessor may introduce you to some relevant assistive software programs and technology. Assessors may also discuss human support such as study skills sessions, mentoring, and assistive technology training.