
UNIVERSITY FOR THE CREATIVE ARTS

Admissions Disability or Specific Learning Difference (SpLD) Policy

The University is committed to a policy of equal opportunities and seeks to ensure that students with disabilities or specific learning needs are not substantially disadvantaged in their ability to access the full range of academic activities and student experience which the University offers. The University has a strong record of admitting and supporting students with a range of disabilities and learning needs and welcomes applications from prospective students with medical conditions, learning difficulties and/or disabilities. Alongside our anticipatory support provisions, we work with individuals to identify and put in place reasonable adjustments to enable an inclusive environment for study.

UCA treats all applications for admission to its courses fairly and transparently. The University's website and prospectus make clear the entry requirements for each of its courses. Applicants are considered and selected on their academic merit and potential and UCA seeks to minimise barriers for prospective students in its selection and admissions processes. Support needs are taken into consideration in parallel with, but separate to, the academic assessment of applicants.

Prospective students are strongly encouraged to disclose disabilities and support needs to the University as early as possible, including in advance of application, so that staff can discuss them with prospective students and look to put in place timely support and reasonable adjustments. Where applicants disclose disabilities or support needs late in the admissions process or post-enrolment, the University may be delayed in putting in place such adjustments as may be reasonable. Whilst the University respects the right of students to choose not to disclose disabilities or support needs, where no disclosure is made, the University may not be able to identify and make any reasonable adjustments which might otherwise be required for the student.

In some instances, the adjustments needed for an individual to enrol on their chosen programme of study may not be ones which it is reasonable for the University to make. In such cases, the University may decline to make an offer of a place or may withdraw an offer already made. Similarly, where the adjustments needed for a student who has accepted an offer of a place to enrol on their course, or for a student who has enrolled to continue on their course, are not ones which it is reasonable for the University to make, the University may end its contract with the student.

Further Education applicants with an Educational Health & Care Plan (EHCP) will be considered by the University in consultation with the applicant's local authority. Should the university not be able to reasonably meet the needs of applicant, this will be communicated to the applicant's local authority. An offer of a place may be either withdrawn or deferred, potentially with a recommendation of an alternative provider.

If an applicant/student does not declare an EHCP during the admissions process and this information is presented to the university post enrolment, the university will consider the

EHCP in relation to the learner's needs. Should the university not be able to reasonably meet the needs of the student, this will be communicated to the student's local authority and the student. The University reserves the right to withdraw a student's enrolment or transfer enrolment to an alternative course.

Examples of adjustments which it may not be reasonable for the University to make include significant adjustments to physical features of the University, or where an individual's disability does not allow them to study safely at the University, or where an individual is unable to meet a competence standard for a particular programme. Where appropriate, the University will seek to identify whether it is reasonably practicable to offer the individual a place on an alternative programme (subject to availability and meeting relevant entry criteria).

The University may defer a student's enrolment or suspend a student's contract, where it is reasonably necessary to do so, to obtain and/or assess further information regarding the student's support needs and potential adjustments which may be made in order to manage risks to the health, safety or welfare of the student and/or others.

The University will consider all such instances fairly, sensitively and carefully, on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the *Cancellation of Applications and/or Offers Policy*

When discussing support needs with the University, prospective students are encouraged to raise the learning strategies and support they may already have in place, and may be invited to disclose medical evidence or other information relating to their disability, in order to assist the University to consider their individual circumstances and identify appropriate support for their chosen programme of study together with any pre-entry support to assist with transition on to the programme.

Applicants who declare a disability or additional support need but who do not make contact with the Learning Support Manager or Dyslexia Adviser themselves will be contacted by the University Disability & SpLD team who will offer an opportunity to discuss their individual needs and enablers to learning.

The University will treat all information disclosed for this purpose sensitively and confidentially. The Disability & SpLD team can also assist applicants with contacting the University's Estates and/or Accommodation services to discuss individual support needs and reasonable adjustments in relation to accessing University campuses and buildings and/or applying for a place in University residential accommodation. Applications for University residential accommodation are considered by the University under a separate process and any accommodation provided to students will be the subject of a separate accommodation contract. For further details please [see the accommodation information on our website](#)

Prospective students are invited to contact our Learning Support Manager or the Dyslexia Adviser at the relevant campus (please [see our website for contact details](#)) at any stage to discuss access and inclusion needs in further detail.

Applicants who declare a disability or specific learning difference can also access support for the selection process. This can, for example, include assistance at applicant days or adjustments to interview/audition or portfolio reviews, where appropriate and practicable, to ensure that applicants are enabled to demonstrate they meet the admissions criteria. For further information please contact please contact our Disability & Specific Learning Differences Team