

## Improving access to Higher Education for disabled students



### Information for parents / guardians of disabled students, pupils on SEN registers or School Action plus

Work by Lancashire AimHigher Disability project has identified the following questions and sources of information that you might wish to think about:

Questions	Sources of information
Have you and your child talked about Higher Education as one possible option?	<p><b>Lancashire Aimhigher Families web site</b> Information for parents / guardians and plenty of links to websites about what to study, where to study, support for disabled students, financial support and careers <a href="http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/index.htm">http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/families/index.htm</a></p>
Do you know about the financial support available in higher education through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)?	<p><b>Bridging the Gap</b> A guide to Disabled Students' Allowance: Tel: 0800 730 9133 <a href="http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898">www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898</a></p> <p><b>County Council web site</b> For information and advice about Helpline 01772 531444 Or Email <a href="mailto:lancshirstudentservices@ed.lancscc.gov.uk">lancshirstudentservices@ed.lancscc.gov.uk</a></p>
Do you know what support is available from each FE or HE institution?	<p><b>Skill: National Bureau for Disabled Students</b> Offer an advice service to answer questions Provide a summary of support and contact details for all English Further and Higher Education Providers <a href="http://www.skill.org.uk/">http://www.skill.org.uk/</a></p>
If your child is unable to consider staying away from home, could they study at home or locally and travel each day?	<p><b>Open University</b> They offer courses that learners can study at home, for courses with a residential they provide support workers <a href="http://www.open.ac.uk/">http://www.open.ac.uk/</a></p> <p>Lancashire Further and Higher Education providers For contact details for learning support and disability advisers <a href="http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/projects/LAHDResources.htm">http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/projects/LAHDResources.htm</a></p>

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### Is there support for disabled learners studying in Higher Education?

Yes. School, Further Education and Higher Education providers all support SEN pupils / disabled learners but organise this support in different ways.

### What happens to SEN in Higher Education?

Higher Education institutions do not use the term SEN, instead they use the term 'disabled students' that includes students with physical or sensory impairments, specific learning disabilities such as dyslexia, mental health difficulties such as depression, unseen disabilities or health conditions such as asthma, epilepsy and autistic spectrum disorders.

## Summer Schools

Did you know that summer schools:

- ✓ are open to pupils on the SEN register?
- ✓ provide support for each person according to their individual learning and personal support needs?
- ✓ give young people a chance to find out what it is like living away from home?
- ✓ allow young people to learn about the support they would get with their learning?
- ✓ are available for pupils in years 10, 11 and 12?
- ✓ can be an ideal way of gaining confidence and developing independence
- ✓ give a taste of what it might be like to study in higher education?
- ✓ help young people to explore their options and future careers
- ✓ are available in all Higher Education Institutions and some Further Education Colleges in Lancashire?
- ✓ help young people decide what they might do when they leave school?

Higher Education providers are aware that many parents / guardians may have concerns about their son or daughter attending a summer school, especially if they have not stayed away from home before or have specific support needs. To help make sure summer schools cater for the needs of disabled learners the staff who organise summer schools talk to current disabled students and staff with responsibility for providing support for disabled learners to make sure that summer schools are appropriate for the needs of disabled learners.

Parents / guardians can play an important role in encouraging and supporting young people to attend a summer school by helping them to make sure they have all the personal and academic support they need. If you have any questions or want to find out more then contact the North West Summer School Office who will be happy to talk to you and put you in touch with local summer school staff:

### North West Summer Schools

[http://www.summer-schools.info/power\\_search.php?pflag=search&region=North+West](http://www.summer-schools.info/power_search.php?pflag=search&region=North+West)

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### University Life

Disabled students are entitled to a range of support in Further Education and Higher Education, and can successfully complete their studies at degree level. To get an 'insider view' of what student life might be like you can look at the following student accounts of studying at university.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/ouch/>

### **But remember**

Every student is different and so each person's experience will be unique and depend on where they study, what they study, where they live, what hobbies and interests they have and what they plan to do in the future.

Prepared on behalf of Lancashire Aimhigher

For further information about supporting disabled learners and for information designed to help families support their young people please contact:

✉ Lancaster University, Department Educational Research, REAP: Researching Equity, Access and Participation, County South, Lancaster, LA1 4YD

☎ 01524 593684

✉ Jess Walmsley: [j.m.walmsley@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.m.walmsley@lancaster.ac.uk)

or

✉ Ann-Marie Houghton: [a.houghton@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:a.houghton@lancaster.ac.uk) to change contact details

🌐 <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/REAP/projects/LAHDDisability.htm>