

## Improving access to Higher Education for disabled students



## Websites: Information, Advice and Guidance

### Who is this resource for?

This resource is for **staff working with disabled learners** who are responsible for:

- ✓ providing Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) about educational transitions
- ✓ talking about post 16 educational opportunities and informally answering questions
- ✓ discussing summer school opportunities

### Lancashire Aimhigher Disability (LAD) Project

This resource has been produced in response to questions, suggestions and examples of good practice gathered from Aimhigher Co-ordinators, Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO), Learning Support Managers and Higher Education Disability Advisors. For additional resources produced by the LAD project see website which contains additional links and LAD Information Sheets that outline good practice ideas about addressing barriers faced by some disabled learners who have the potential to benefit from higher education.

☆ <http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/REAP/projects/LADDisability.htm>

### General Disability Links

#### **Aimhigher**

General information covering: applying for a course, universities & colleges, careers, finance, and student life

<http://www.aimhigher.ac.uk/sites/practitioner/home/index.cfm>

#### **Lancashire Aimhigher**

Named disability contacts for all Sixth Form and FE Colleges, Higher Education Institutions and Local Authorities See Information Sheet 1 – Contacts

<http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/reap/Documents/07%20LAD%20information%20sheets%206a.pdf>

#### **Connexions**

Site includes a glossary of terms, specific disability information flagged up for all categories of information and sections for learners and practitioners

<http://www.connexions-direct.com/>

#### **Skill – National Bureau for students with disabilities**

<http://www.skill.org.uk/>

National campaigning organisation offering a helpline, range of detailed information sheets for students wanting to study in FE and HE

**Skill into HE** provides a summary of disability support available from each HE provider and named contact details to ask other questions

<http://www.skill.org.uk/page.aspx?c=40&p=133>

## **Financial Assistance**

In addition to general financial questions disabled students need to find out if they are eligible for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) which is a non-means tested source of funding to provide support for students studying in higher education

DfES Student Support: Guide to finance for disabled students.

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG\\_10034898](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898)

## **Information Advice and Guidance**

### **The Road to Higher Education**

Produced by West Area Aimhigher Partnership 12 page A guide to Disabled Students Allowance and a poster of the application process

<http://www.aimhigherwest.org.uk/professionals/resources/disability-information/>

Lancashire Aimhigher – Information Advice and Guidance

Including an email discussion forum for teachers, FE, HE and Connexions staff <http://he4me-inlancashire.org.uk/>

## **Summer Schools**

Summer Schools are open to disabled students and can be an ideal way of gaining confidence, identifying the support needed and support available from HE providers

### **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)

## **Specific Disabilities**

Whilst there are a number of generic factors that all students need to take into account there are sometimes issues relating to specific impairments and conditions. The following web sites connect to the 'links' or 'further information page' to allow access to other sites.

### **Autism and Asperger's Syndrome**

National Autistic Society: <http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=118>

### **Blind and Visual impairment**

Royal National Institute for the Blind: <http://www.rnib.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx>

### **Dyslexia and dyspraxia**

British Dyslexia Association: <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

### **Deaf and Hard of Hearing**

Royal National Institute for Deaf People: [http://www.rnid.org.uk/information\\_resources/](http://www.rnid.org.uk/information_resources/)

### **Mental health difficulties**

Mental Health Foundation: <http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/>

Prepared on behalf of Lancashire Aimhigher

For further information about supporting disabled learners, or copies of other resources, contact:

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☎ 01524 593684

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