Improving access to Higher Education for disabled students

Who is this resource for?
This resource is for staff working with disabled learners who are responsible for:
✓ designing and delivering inclusive learning opportunities
✓ working with learners on the SEN register, who have an Individual Educational Plan based on an assessment of learning need, learners in receipt of the Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) and learners who may not have disclosed their disability

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/LAHDisability.htm

Teaching and Learning Disability Links

CARS: Creating Accessible Resources for Staff
This Open University and HEFCE Funded website offers comprehensive information, fact sheets, video clips, and a host of teaching and learning links on four topics: understanding and awareness, inclusive teaching, identifying student needs and the legal and professional context. Although designed for higher education the resources are relevant for all educational sectors and include materials suitable for staff development.
http://www.open.ac.uk/inclusiveteaching/index.php

DART (Disabilities: Academic Resource Tool)
Case studies of individual student experiences and resources for auditing teaching and learning provision.
http://dart.lboro.ac.uk/resources.html

Ferl (Further Education resources for learning)
Ferl is a web-based information service managed by Becta. Ferl aims to support individuals and organisations within the Post-Compulsory Education sector to make effective use of ICT and e-learning. Becta does this not only by providing online information services, but also conferences, publications and other events.
http://excellence.qia.org.uk/home
Quality Assurance Agency (Disability Code of Practice)
Guidance for higher education providers

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Teachernet
Resources designed for SENCO and teachers including SEN Code of Practice
http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/teacherlearningassistant/

Skills for access
A useful resource providing practical and up-to-date advice on techniques and strategies for using multimedia to support learning for disabled students
http://www.skillsforaccess.org.uk

Teachability
A Scottish funding council project at the University of Strathclyde that supports the creation of an accessible curriculum via comprehensive audit materials for use by academic staff
http://www.teachability.strath.ac.uk/

TechDis
Supports a co-ordinated and coherent UK approach to technology, disability and inclusion and has links to a huge range of resources
http://www.techdis.ac.uk/

Specific Disability Projects
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

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/

Mental health difficulties
Mental Health Foundation: http://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/welcome/

Teachernet SEN
Includes links to web sites covering chronic health conditions
http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/wholeschool/sen/links/

Prepared on behalf of Lancashire Aimhigher
For further information about supporting disabled learners, or copies of other resources, 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
or Ann-Marie Houghton: a.houghton@lancaster.ac.uk to change contact details
http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/projects/REAP/projects/LAHDisability.htm