# Student Wellbeing Service: Disability Framework - Students

Reviewed May 2024

**Statement**

The University of Greenwich recognises that disabled students are an integral part of the academic community. We are committed to promoting full participation for disabled students in all aspects of the academic and social life of the University of Greenwich.

Where disabled students are placed at a substantial disadvantage by a provision, criterion or practice, the absence of an auxiliary aid or a physical feature, the University will consider whether any reasonable adjustments can be made to overcome that disadvantage.

When deciding whether an adjustment is reasonable, we will consider factors including:

* how effective the change will be in avoiding the disadvantage the disabled student would otherwise experience
* its practicality, including any impact on other people’s health and safety
* the cost
* the University’s resources and size
* the availability of financial support

This framework is based on the [UK Quality Code for Higher Education](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/quality-code/revised-uk-quality-code-for-higher-education.pdf) (2023, revised version) and the legal framework is the [2010 Single Equality Act, Section 6, Disability](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/section/6) and may be updated to refer to new or additional guidance.

1. **Environment/physical access**

The University is committed to ensuring good physical access to all buildings. We are a multi-site University with premises that vary considerably in age and accessibility. Where physical or sensory barriers limit access to services, we will endeavour to provide the equivalent quality of service at a suitable alternative venue or in another way.

1. **Information for applicants, students and staff**

All information for applicants, students and staff will be available in accessible formats with sufficient time to allow for modification into alternative formats, where necessary and by request.

The University of Greenwich is committed to making online information accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG, 2022).

1. **Recruitment and Admissions**

The Admissions team ensure that when selecting students, equitable consideration is given to all applicants.

We will enable students to share and discuss their support needs, offer them a professional assessment of their study support requirements and seek to meet those requirements within a reasonable period of time. To facilitate this process, potential students who apply through UCAS, or directly, are asked to share their disability on their application and outline any support needs. Where appropriate, applicants are encouraged to visit the campus where they will study to satisfy themselves that their needs can be met. This is particularly important when students are engaged on courses involving field trips, laboratory activities, etc. and to meet health and safety requirements including evacuation procedures. Visits can be arranged with the Student Wellbeing Service on wellbeing@gre.ac.uk or 0208 331 7875.

Students called to interview will be made aware of the procedures for advising the University of any access needs and for requesting reasonable adjustments in the

interview/selection process.

In order to provide appropriate support and guidance to enable students to benefit fully from their time at university, both academically and socially, we need to know if a student has a disability. Applicants will therefore be asked to share this information at admissions and to take responsibility for ensuring that they apply for the Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA), where appropriate, and make arrangements to access the support available to them from the University’s Student Wellbeing Service. Further information about the support provided can be accessed from the [University’s website](https://www.gre.ac.uk/study/support).

All applicants are considered equally on the basis of the academic requirements of the course.

**Deferrals**

Where it is not possible to make reasonable adjustments before the start of a course, the University will advise the student to defer taking up a place until any issues can be resolved.

**Withdrawal of an offer**

In very exceptional circumstances it may be necessary to withdraw an offer of a place if, after due consideration, it has been concluded that no suitable adjustments can be made. Examples of grounds on which an offer may be withdrawn include:

* There is a risk to health & safety. Certain conditions may pose a Health & Safety risk, particularly in laboratory settings, even where reasonable adjustments have been made.
* There is a need for specially adapted accommodation which cannot be met.
* There are physical access issues which cannot be resolved by making reasonable adjustments.
* The costs of providing support or making necessary adjustments would have a serious negative impact on the provision for other students.

For further information on recruitment and admissions, the University’s Admission Team can be contacted on: courseinfo@gre.ac.uk

1. **Accommodation**

The University of Greenwich aims to provide the best possible range and standard of accommodation to meet the needs of all our students, in halls.

The University’s Accommodation Services invite applications and booking for halls as soon as applicants have firmly accepted an offer of study at the University. Applicants are asked to share any disability, medical or other requirements they may have that could impact where they live in halls, on the application form. If an applicant has a disability and requires a specific room in hall, the Accommodation Service Staff will be alerted automatically when the application is made and will arrange the booking and make contact with the applicant and liaise with Student Wellbeing Services to best ensure any reasonable adjustments that may be required are in place prior to arrival.

For students continuing in their studies, applications for halls open in February and any student requiring specific housing is invited to make a priority booking application so they can select their room before all students book.

If any advice or guidance is needed, please contact the Accommodation Service team at gr.accommodation@gre.ac.uk

1. **Teaching & Learning**

The University’s Student Success Strategy 2030 and Assessment & Feedback Policy outline the University’s commitment to support inclusive learning and teaching through the effective use of digital technologies to encourage and improve communication and networking and to ensure the development of skills and attributes of all students and staff.

Programme specifications are regularly reviewed to ensure they are inclusive, responsive to student needs and free of unnecessary barriers to access.

1. **Support Services**

All Student Support services, including the Student Centre one-stop-shops and the Employability and Careers Services, are accessible to all students. Information resources are available in a range of accessible formats including on-line resources and telephone and TEAMS guidance and advice sessions.

A specialist Disability & Dyslexia service is available as part of the Student Wellbeing Service, with dedicated professionals offering screenings for specific learning difficulties, guidance on arranging support via Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) and arranging in-class support such as a study assistant or BSL interpreter, academic support and purchase of specialist equipment to meet individual study needs. The service also complete Greenwich Inclusion Plans (GIPs) – outlining reasonable adjustments and exam arrangements, for those that require it. They also offer a staff development programme providing training on disability awareness and good practice. The Service can be contacted via email wellbeing@gre.ac.uk or telephone 0208 331 7875. Further information about the support provided can be accessed from the [University’s website](https://www.gre.ac.uk/study/support).

1. **Examinations & Assessment**

Assessment and examination policies, practices and procedures will provide disabled students with appropriate opportunities equitable to those of their peers to demonstrate the achievement of learning outcomes. These arrangements are provided as a reasonable adjustment.

Information on [Examination & Assessment Regulations for students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties, mental health difficulties and long-term medical conditions](https://docs.gre.ac.uk/rep/sas/examinations-and-assessments-regulations) is available on the university website.

There are set deadlines for applications for exam arrangements. Students must ensure that they regularly check university communications, including university email and Student Portal, for awareness of these.

For further information about support for examination and assessments, the Student Wellbeing Service can be contacted via email wellbeing@gre.ac.uk or telephone 0208 331 7875.

Individual Faculty Exams Teams can be contacted for specific queries about examination timetables.