



Policy for Dyslexic Students

BCPC is aware that the manifestations of dyslexia can be many and varied as is the severity of the problem. We would appreciate it if you could identify the kinds of things you think would help you and give this to your tutor.

Procedures recommended by Middlesex University

- Students should be required to provide appropriate evidence of their dyslexia to the MA Programme Director (e.g. results of a dyslexia assessment)
- Prior to disclosure of any information contained in the assessment (even within the institution) the student should give explicit consent to disclosure
- The Programme Director should recommend appropriate academic allowances in accordance with the nature of the individual's learning profile
- Recommendations for academic allowances should be notified in writing to programme staff and any central assessment body, with a copy of this notification being issued to the student
- In addition, to ensure all staff are aware of the issues, staff development should accompany the introduction of new procedures

BCPC grants up to an extra 3 tutorials per year for any student identified as dyslexic. A central record is kept of any recommendations made, and the effectiveness of the process is monitored. BCPC graduates have offered to proofread students' work and this is self-funded. If indicated in the individual assessment recommendations, BCPC can provide special formatting of documents such as PDF's for reading programmes, coloured print outs or other special formatting. Dyslexic students may also be granted extensions to deadlines for written assignments. A central record is kept of any recommendations made, and the effectiveness of the process is monitored.

Additional Forms of Assessment

In the small number of cases where students are severely affected by dyslexia, the academic allowances commonly made may not be sufficient to provide appropriate support. It could therefore be necessary to consider alternative modes of assessment – for example, a *viva voce* in addition to written work, where a student's ability can be assessed differently. Consideration of alternative forms of assessment is informed both by student need and the maintenance of academic standards/professional requirements. An unambiguous academic rationale will be available for the final decision, so that the student is clear about the grounds on which the alternative assessment was/was not arranged.

Specialist Dyslexia Tutor

If students are assessed as needing extra support due to Dyslexia, they may be seen by Theresa Gillbard who is a specialist dyslexia tutor working at Bath Spa University. BCPC will pay for up to 3 sessions each academic year where needed. Tess is able to use her training to make accurate assessments of particular student needs where a possible diagnosis of dyslexia is suspected. Students should discuss this with their BCPC tutor before contacting the specialist tutor at t.gillbard@bathspa.ac.uk

Reviewed May 2021
Reviewed August 2020
Reviewed September 2015
Reviewed September 2012
Written and agreed September 2009