

Approximately 10% of students in higher education are recognised as having some form of learning difficulty which would benefit from additional support. Dyslexia affects about 6% of students; dyscalculia affects students working with numbers. Other difficulties arise from epilepsy, asthma, diabetes, ME, and Asperger's syndrome. Students with these conditions often don't come to the attention of the study services, but in fieldwork it is essential for the department to know. Some of these conditions will affect students throughout their degree, others are particularly important when students are working in laboratories and in the field. The fieldwork elements of Geography, Earth and Environmental Science are thought to discourage physically disabled students. There is however plenty of support and advice available for staff and students. Here are some links to get you started.

Accessibility in Learning Environments and Related Technologies (ALERT)

[www.bournemouth.ac.uk/alert/](http://www.bournemouth.ac.uk/alert/)

Resources and case studies aiming to improve the accessibility of online learning

BRAIN.HE - Best Resources for Achievement and Intervention re Neurodiversity in Higher Education [www.brainhe.com/](http://www.brainhe.com/) This website aims at students with SpLDs (specific learning differences) and staff working with them.

DART (Disabilities: Academic Resource Tool) Project <http://dart.lboro.ac.uk/case.html> 25 case studies based on the experiences of disabled students

DEMOS Online Materials for Staff Disability Awareness  
<http://jarmin.com/demos/course/dyslexia/04.html>

DfES Framework for Understanding Dyslexia [www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=124856](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk/page.aspx?o=124856)

Dyslexia at College [www.dyslexia-college.com/](http://www.dyslexia-college.com/)

Dyslexia Help [www.dyslexiahelp.co.uk/](http://www.dyslexiahelp.co.uk/)

Farrell, M. 2005 *The Effective Teacher's Guide to Dyslexia and other Specific Learning Difficulties: Practical Strategies*, Routledge, London

Hargreaves S. 2007 *Study Skills for Dyslexic Students*, Sage, London

Inclusive Learning and Teaching E-bulletins  
[www.psyandhology.heacademy.ac.uk/networks/sig/index.asp](http://www.psyandhology.heacademy.ac.uk/networks/sig/index.asp) Advice and guidance on providing a more inclusive experience for all students.

JISC TechDis Accessibility Essentials Series  
[http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/techdis/keyinitiatives/organisationaleffectiveness/enablingtechnology/accessibility\\_essentials](http://www.jisctechdis.ac.uk/techdis/keyinitiatives/organisationaleffectiveness/enablingtechnology/accessibility_essentials) Practical step-by-step information to enable anyone reading material to amend its look and feel into a style which suits them.

Mencap [www.mencap.org.uk/](http://www.mencap.org.uk/) UK charity supporting people with learning disabilities

Planet Special Edition 3 (2002) Special Educational Needs and Disabilities – learning and teaching guidance for Geography, Earth and Environmental Sciences  
[www.gees.ac.uk/pubs/planet/send.pdf](http://www.gees.ac.uk/pubs/planet/send.pdf)

TeachInclusive [web.anglia.ac.uk/inclusive\\_practice/index.html](http://web.anglia.ac.uk/inclusive_practice/index.html) This is a resource for inclusive teaching, and one of its assets is that the website is inclusive in itself.

The British Dyslexia Association [www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/](http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/)

The National Autism Society - University: How to support students with Asperger Syndrom  
[www.autism.org.uk/working-with/education/education-professionals-in-fe-and-he/university-how-to-support-students-with-asperger-syndrome.aspx](http://www.autism.org.uk/working-with/education/education-professionals-in-fe-and-he/university-how-to-support-students-with-asperger-syndrome.aspx)

Open University - Making your Teaching Inclusive  
[www.open.ac.uk/inclusiveteaching/pages/understanding-and-awareness/what-are-specific-learning-difficulties.php](http://www.open.ac.uk/inclusiveteaching/pages/understanding-and-awareness/what-are-specific-learning-difficulties.php) Comprehensive web site including sections on Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)