

# ARTS UNIVERSITY BOURNEMOUTH

## Disability Support policy

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### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 If you are disabled, neurodivergent or you have additional needs, AUB encourages and supports your participation in all aspects of university life.
- 1.2 You may not consider yourself to be disabled, but AUB uses the legal definition of a disability, which is “a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on the ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. Our use of the term “disabled” is intended to be inclusive, and includes dyslexia, mental health conditions, neurodiversity, sensory impairments, mobility difficulties and long term medical conditions.
- 1.3 If you are disabled, the Disability Discrimination Acts 1995 / 2005 and the Equality Act 2010 make it unlawful for AUB to discriminate against you when we provide you with education and related services.
- 1.4 AUB recognises that all students may require support with their learning at any time in their academic career, and that an ethos based on equity and inclusion will encourage all students to fulfil their intellectual and artistic potential. However, if you are disabled we recognise that you may have additional learning needs and require individual support so that you are not disadvantaged by your disability.

### 2. Disclosing a disability

- 2.1 You are encouraged to disclose all disabilities, however mild or severe, when you apply to AUB, using AUB’s online disclosure portal (in addition to any disclosure in your UCAS application). When you do this you will be offered opportunities to discuss your individual needs with specialist staff within Student Services.
- 2.2 You can also disclose your disability at the start of your course or at any point during your studies, by completing the online disclosure in MyAUB.
- 2.3 When you disclose your disability you will be asked to provide evidence from a relevant medical specialist, educational psychologist or specialist assessor. You can choose which members of AUB staff are informed of your disability. Please remember that, if you choose not to share information with your academic course team, this may affect any reasonable adjustments for you.
- 2.4 AUB complies with General Data Protection Regulations and information about your disability will be handled discreetly and confidentially. In an emergency, if we need to take direct action to protect your safety and welfare and/or that of others, it may not be possible to maintain confidentiality. If we did need to break your confidentiality we would tell you about this at the earliest opportunity.

### **3. Admission arrangements**

- 3.1 Before applying to AUB we encourage you to seek guidance in choosing a course of study based on your aspirations, skills and needs. Our academic course teams and Student Services are happy to help you with this.
- 3.2 If you disclose your disability when you apply it will not disadvantage you in any way – AUB considers all applications fairly.
- 3.3 You may be asked to attend an interview or an offer holder day; if you need any additional support, please let us know. You may also like to meet with one of our specialist support staff on those days, to discuss your individual needs and any support you may need on your course.
- 3.4 If you require any additional support or adjustments please contact us before you start your course so that we can ensure that the appropriate arrangements are made before you arrive.

### **4. Physical access to the Arts University Bournemouth**

- 4.1 If you are a wheelchair user or have mobility difficulties, the campus has automatic doors, lifts and accessible toilets. Access to a small number of studios and departments can be limited, so we will try to arrange for classes and tutorials to be held within accessible spaces.
- 4.2 If you are a blue badge holder you may park on campus. There are a number of dedicated spaces for disabled drivers but please note that having a blue badge does not guarantee you a parking space. If you do not have a blue badge you will not be able to park on campus.
- 4.3 If you have asthma or breathing conditions the atmosphere within some workshop areas may aggravate this. We recommend that you discuss any health implications with your doctor.
- 4.4 If you require an accessible room in AUB Halls of Residence, or you need adaptations to your accommodation, please contact us before booking a room in halls so that we can discuss any accommodation related needs.
- 4.5 AUB's Assistance Dogs and Support Animals policy sets out how the university manages requests for the access and accommodation of assistance dogs or other support animals.

### **5. Identification of additional learning needs**

- 5.1 When you start your course at AUB you'll be offered an initial online screening test to identify your preferred learning style and to identify possible risk of specific learning difficulties (such as dyslexia).
- 5.2 If you are a UK Higher Education student and your test results suggest that you are at high risk of specific learning difficulties you may be referred for a full diagnostic assessment with a specialist assessor. Please book a follow up appointment with the Senior Disability Adviser to discuss your eligibility.

- 5.3 Your referral for a diagnostic assessment is at the discretion of Student Services. AUB is not obliged to provide or pay for diagnostic assessments and not all students are eligible.
- 5.4 If you have a diagnostic assessment but you do not agree with the assessor's professional diagnosis, or if the diagnosis contradicts previous reports you have had, AUB will not pay for further assessments.
- 5.5 AUB cannot offer you diagnostic assessments for Autistic Spectrum Disorders, ADHD or other medical conditions, but we can offer you advice and guidance on seeking diagnosis via NHS medical pathways.

## **6. Support within Student Services**

- 6.1 You do not need a formal diagnosis to access the support services within AUB's Student Services. You can book appointments with any of the services by using the Bookings tab in MyAUB.
- 6.2 The Senior Disability Adviser can offer specialist advice and guidance about any disability-related support or reasonable adjustments.
- 6.3 You can access same-day wellbeing support during term time via AUB's Wellbeing Service – just come to Student Services between 10am and 2pm. Mental health support is also available at the University Retreat between 2pm and 9pm, Monday – Saturday. There is no need to book in advance. You can also book an online session.
- 6.4 If you need support with your academic work, you can book a 1-1 tutorial with a study skills tutor, for help with written work, time management and general study skills. Your Subject Librarian can help you with research and referencing.
- 6.5 If you are a UK Higher Education student you may be eligible for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) which can contribute to the costs of equipment and/or specialist software, and personal assistance. Student Services can help you with your application.
- 6.6 If your DSA report recommends support or adjustments, these can only be implemented in accordance with AUB policies.
- 6.7 You may wish to make use of Claro text-to-speech and Inspiration mind mapping software, which is available on computers on campus.

## **7. Reasonable Adjustments**

- 7.1 If your condition meets the legal definition of a disability, AUB has a legal duty to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that you are not disadvantaged because of your disability or impairment.
- 7.2 Your course will require you to undertake a range of learning, teaching and assessment methods. If you feel that you would be disadvantaged by a particular form of learning, teaching or assessment, because of your disability, please discuss this with your course lecturer and the Senior Disability Adviser in Student Services. You are not automatically entitled to

deadline extensions, but you can apply for a one week extension or mitigation. A reasonable adjustment may be agreed to ensure you are not disadvantaged by particular course activities. Each reasonable adjustment is very specific to you and the unit of study, so adjustments may vary throughout your course.

- 7.3 If you wish to record lectures and taught sessions to help with note taking, please remember that the content of a lecture or other taught session remains the intellectual property of the person delivering it, and your recording must be used only for your personal study. You should not share, reproduce, broadcast, or publish your recording. Please seek permission from those who are being recorded and confirm upon request how any recordings will be stored and deleted.

## **8. Your entitlement and responsibility**

8.1 You have the right to:

- Choose not to participate in any screening or diagnostic tests.
- Discuss the outcome of any screening or diagnostic tests with staff within Student Services.
- Self-refer to an independent educational psychologist outside of AUB. In this case, AUB will not cover the cost of your diagnostic assessment.
- Apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA) and arrange any recommended support independently.
- Employ your own non-medical helper(s), in line with DSA regulations, as long as any support to be provided at AUB is in accordance with AUB policies;
- Withhold information relating to your disability from academic or other staff at AUB. However, please remember that this will necessarily limit the provision of reasonable adjustments.

8.2 You have a responsibility to:

- Ask for advice, guidance or support with any disability-related needs in a timely fashion.
- Attend any appointments you book or cancel them if you are unable to attend. If you give less than 48 hours' cancellation for an educational psychologist's or specialist assessor's appointment you may be charged a cancellation fee.

All members of the University's community including staff, students, visitors and contractors have a responsibility to treat others fairly and respectfully regardless of the characteristics which may define their identity. These include the legally protected characteristics which are: Age, Disability, Gender reassignment, Marriage and Civil partnership, Pregnancy and maternity, Race, Religion or belief (including lack of belief), Sex and Sexual orientation. The University has committed to provide a working and learning environment founded on dignity, respect and equity where discrimination of any kind is treated with the utmost seriousness.

This Commitment has been subject to an equality impact assessment to ensure consideration with regard to the provisions of the Equality Act 2010.

To be reviewed in October 2026.

