Information about Hand Function Disability
Some students may not have any obvious impairment, but have difficulties in using one or both hands.

Hand function impairments may be caused by:
- Gradual process injury (OOS).
- Cerebral Palsy or brain injury.
- Accidents, amputations or injuries from burns.
- Paralysis.
- Medical conditions like Rheumatoid arthritis, Raynaud’s syndrome, neurological conditions or strokes.
- Problems with dexterity due to injury to fingers/hand/arm.

Some impacts of impairments:
- Permanent hand tremor due to side effect of medications or Parkinson’s Disease.
- Muscle cramps, pain, swelling and/or anaesthesia with prolonged use of hands, sometimes extending to arms and shoulders.
- Difficulty with extensive hand writing or typing.
- Fatigue.

Ways staff can assist:
- Avoid making assumptions.
- Give students opportunities to talk with you early in the semester.
- Remember to treat disclosures with care.
- Use inclusive teaching practices e.g. put class notes on CECIL prior to classes so student have less to write, allow notetakers or taping of lectures.
- Arrange laboratory partners or an assistant for tasks or laboratories where two hands are needed.
- Allow time extensions if students need to work more slowly.
- Have rest breaks.
- Refer student for assessment of needs during exams.
- Refer and guide student to use The University of Auckland services.

Available support services for staff and students:
- Disability Services: Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 82936; Email: disabilities@auckland.ac.nz
- Student Learning Centre: Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 88850; Email: slc@auckland.ac.nz
- Student Health & Counselling: Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 87681

Disclosure is voluntary:
Students may choose not to disclose their disability because they
- Don’t want special treatment, or want to see if they can cope alone.
- Fear discrimination.
- Feel embarrassed about asking for help.
- Want to get to know staff first, and then decide whether to disclose.
CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUPPORT

**Disability Services**
Room 036 Basement
ClockTower Building
22 Princes Street
Auckland
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 82936
Fax: +64 9 308 2354
[www.eo.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.eo.auckland.ac.nz)
[www.disability.auckland.ac.nz](http://www.disability.auckland.ac.nz)
[disabilities@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:disabilities@auckland.ac.nz)

**University Medical Services**
City Campus Clinic
Level 3, Student Commons Building
2 Alfred Street
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 87681

Grafton Campus Clinic
The "White House"
151 Park Rd
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86962

Tamaki Campus Clinic (Registered Nurse Clinic only)
Building 730.110
Morrin Road
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86677

Epsom Campus Clinic
R Block, Gate 4
60 Epsom Avenue, Epsom
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 48526

**Student Learning Centre**
Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 88850
[slc@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:slc@auckland.ac.nz)

The University of Auckland encourages partnerships between Faculties, student services and students, to support students to achieve their academic potential.