

Welcome

My name is Kieran Berry, I'm a student here at The University of Auckland and I am going to give you a brief insight into what it's like to study here at The University of Auckland as a student with a disability.

So I'm currently in my second year studying a conjoint Arts and Law degree, but before this all began I needed to sort out what services were available for my impairment here at the University.

I have a visual impairment so when I was in 6th form, I got in touch with the team at Student Disability Services, which is part of the University's Equity Office. From our first meeting, I realised that there was a lot of support, information and resources for students with disabilities.

For example, during my time at Uni, I've used note-takers to take notes during lectures, and I use this CCTV to make it easier for me to read. During Orientation, I had a special tour of the campus with a guide who pointed out any areas that might be difficult for me to navigate.

The University's campuses are accessible for people with a wide range of impairments...for example, there are wheelchair-accessible underpasses ramps and lifts, door openers, high-visibility stickers, tactile panels, disability car parking, note takers, signers and a range of technologies, to support people who are Deaf and hearing impaired.

There are also counsellors to support people with mental health conditions, and a Student Learning Centre that can help if you have dyslexia or other learning impairments.

When you enrol at Uni you have the opportunity to let Student Disability Services know you have an impairment, and Student Disability Services can tailor the services they offer to your impairment.

The team at Student Disability Services are really friendly and knowledgeable, and they keep everything confidential. They also understand that your needs can change as you study. Their doors are always open, so there's no need to feel uncomfortable about making contact with them as much as you need.

The role of Student Disability Services is to support students with a wide range of impairments.

The University is committed to providing a universal environment that meets the needs of all of our students. We recognise the benefits of a diverse student body. Our services are free and confidential. We encourage you once you are enrolled to disclose your impairment and to come and see us. This helps the University to ensure you have the best opportunity to succeed as an undergraduate, a postgraduate and beyond.

Student Disability Services are located in the basement of the ClockTower. Contact them via their website or give them a call. Remember, having a disability in no way limits your ability from having a great university experience.

So if you are a student with a disability and thinking of studying, just do it! SDS are here to support you to help you get good grades and to really enjoy your time here at The University of Auckland.