

Disability Equality Duty Report on Disability Action Plans for students 2006 – 2009

At the time of the Disability Equality Duty, December 2006, the University of Nottingham had ready a number of Disability Action Plans (DAPs) for students from central services and schools. Schools continue to produce a DAP which is subject to regular review and periodic updating within each school overseen by Disability Support in Student Services.

Central Services DAPs were incorporated into the Disability Action Plan for Students in 2007.

In late 2006 a consultation exercise was undertaken with disabled people by an external consultant with a final report submitted through the Advisory Group on Disability in April 2007 and the Equality and Diversity Committee in February 2009.

The consultation addressed the areas of feedback from disabled staff, external stakeholders and students. The final report is available on request from Disability Support, Student Services.

The report gave a useful insight into how the DES is perceived by an external and internal audience and the comments and suggestions should be included in any re write of a Disability or Single Equality Scheme.

The Disability Action Plan for Students was last reported on in December 2008, the purpose of this document is to offer a similar level of specific reporting and to analyse the strengths of the plan and associated activities over the three years since its inception and to provide a broader report into the way in which disabled people and students have interacted with the University since December 2006.

Growth in figures since 2006

The Advisory Group on Disability, which was replaced by the Student Equality and Diversity Advisory Group have looked each year at applications, offers and acceptances from disabled people, the registration figures across the University by disabled students, and the attainments year on year. Reports are sent through to the Equality and Diversity Committee.

The following was noted in the latest Annual Diversity Report:

Breakdown of Students by Disability 2005 – 08

The table below shows the steady increase in numbers of students declaring a disability at some point during their time at the University of Nottingham*. It is encouraging to note that there is an increase year on year particularly in the area of Post graduate study. Post Graduate research for example having increased by 3% over three sessions.

	2005 - 06	2006 - 07	2007 - 08
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Undergraduate	7%	8%	8%
Post Graduate Taught	5%	5%	6%
Post Graduate Research	4%	5%	7%
Overall %	6%	5%	6%
Totals (n)	1541	1784	1883

Statistics are from Planning and Management Information Division and exclude UNMC, UNNC and students from the Schools of Nursing and Continuing Education who are not based on the main campus.

*More detailed statistics are at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/planning/statistics/2006-07/list-excel.html>

The Wider Picture

The disabled population within Nottingham is 7.1% and within the East Midlands is 5.3% based on figures from the Office of National Statistics (measured in relation to economic activity). Nationally, the comparable figure is around 8% and probably closer to 18% if dyslexia is included in the figures.

Given the above the incidence of disability at the University of Nottingham is still low at 6% overall. Students can declare a disability at any stage in the admissions and enrolment cycle and beyond and so snapshot figures may be misleading.

To break the overall figures down by impairment (as defined by UCAS)

Disability growth by UCAS code 2006 – 2009

2006 -07

Total	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Undisclosed
1721 (1690)	52	69	536	69	706	17	172	52	17

2007 -08

Total	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Undisclosed
1919 (1882)	38	58	614	77	768	19	173	58	77

2008 09

Total	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	Undisclosed
2112 (2110)	42	63	676	84	845	21	211	84	84

UCAS codes

A	No disability
B	You have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
C	You are blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
D	You are deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
E	You have a long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
F	You have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
G	You have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
H	You have physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
I	You have a disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
J	You have two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions

Caution notes:

- Figures in parentheses are the totals of the actual figures calculated from the percentages given there are therefore discrepancies as % figures were 'rounded'
- This gives the numbers of students declaring at registration and may not be a true figure of students who may later come forward

These figures show overall increase for most codes apart from C and D, blind or with a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses and deaf or with a serious hearing impairment. These show a decline of 7.5% (C) and 3.1% (D).

Code B does not appear and so we are not able to note any trends in the area of social communication disorders although experience tells us that declaration of this is on the increase.

Overall there is steady growth in all other areas of between 6 and 7%. Two areas significantly different are J – two or more impairments with an increase of 16.4% and Undisclosed which has an overall growth of 37%.

Attainment

2006 -07

In keeping with what is known from national figures of economically active disabled people (ONS Census 2001) the number of disabled students is very low and care should be taken when interpreting such data. However, table 6 shows that in most faculties disabled students are performing slightly better than their non disabled peers at 1st class division. At upper second level there is more 'evening out'. Figures 3.3, 3.4 and 3.5 offer us a picture of disabled leavers roughly consistent with non disabled ones

2007 -08

Undergraduate Disability

- In most faculties disabled students are performing at least as well as their non disabled peers at 1st class division. At upper second level there is less difference.

Postgraduate Disability

- This particular minority overall seem to be achieving higher results than the majority
- Disabled students seem to be performing well. Male and Female students performances are not dissimilar except in those areas identified in the report above where there are larger numbers of either gender.