

The College Ystrad Mynach

Disability Statement



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Meeting Your Learning Needs

DISABILITY STATEMENT THE COLLEGE YSTRAD MYNACH

This document can also be made available, on request, in a range of accessible formats. It is on the College website.

1. WELCOME

The College Ystrad Mynach aims to provide the highest possible quality of education and training to all its learners. The College welcomes all learners regardless of gender, race, religion, age, sexual orientation or disability and aims to be responsive and flexible in meeting individual's needs.

This statement sets out the ways in which we can support you if you have a disability and/or learning difficulty. This includes D/deaf and hard of hearing learners, blind and visually impaired learners, learners with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, learners who have mental health difficulties, learners with unseen impairments such as epilepsy, and learners who use a wheelchair or have mobility or other physical difficulties.

The College will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments to our facilities, resources and / or procedures to help you successfully follow a programme of study. Our ability to carry out such adjustments will depend on their practicality, budgetary constraints and available resources and may make it impossible to guarantee that all services and/or access are available without restriction.

The College Ystrad Mynach is committed to equality of opportunity for all of its learners and has a strong commitment to widening participation enabling all learners to realise their potential.

If you would like to talk informally about your support needs, you can contact Sue Shephard, Learning Support Manager:

Telephone: 01443 810077

Fax: 01443 816973

E mail: sshephard@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk

A list of current contact names can be found at the end of this booklet.

2. ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS

How do I apply?

The College welcomes applications from disabled people and/or those with a learning difficulty and seeks to provide information (on request) in a range of formats.

You can get our prospectus and further information on courses and an application form from:

Student Services
The College Ystrad Mynach
Twyn Road
Ystrad Mynach
Hengoed
CF82 7XR

Tel: 0870 850 2348

Email: enquiries@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk

Website: www.ystrad-mynach.ac.uk

Also watch the College website and local press for details of College Open Days which provide a good opportunity for you to discuss course details and support needs.

Please tell us about your disability or learning difficulty as early as possible. This helps us offer appropriate support and will help you adjust quickly to life in college.

When applying for a course, you are encouraged to give information on the application form about your additional learning needs and if you need any individual arrangements for interview.

Admissions staff can:

- Assist you in applying to join a course (including arrangement of a pre-application visit)
- Liaise with the Learning Support team
- Assist you with enrolment procedures at the College

You will be invited for interview with a course tutor to discuss how we can best meet your learning needs.

You will also have the opportunity to discuss your support needs with a member of the Learning Support team who will assess your needs and the College's ability to meet those needs.

How will the College assess my needs?

All full-time FE learners and part-time learners studying for 5 or more hours per week, will complete a Literacy and Numeracy assessment at the start of their course.

If you are applying for a Pre-Entry or Entry level programme, you will be asked to give further information, with the help of your parent /guardian / carer / social worker etc., to give us a clearer picture of your needs.

Some learners may be offered a full dyslexia assessment from a specialist Dyslexia Tutor. We may also access other specialist staff to assess your needs, for example the RNIB.

The Learning Support team will help you decide whether you need to have any further assessments.

Assessments will be carried out in a sensitive and supportive manner and you will be fully involved in the process.

It is important that you discuss your needs with us as early as possible so that we are able to tell you what support we are able to arrange.

Student Services staff can also give advice on other support such as student finance, welfare issues and childcare.

3. LEARNING SUPPORT SERVICES

What is additional support?

Additional support is any kind of extra support you may need to help you through your course at College.

Do many learners receive additional support?

Each year hundreds of learners receive some form of additional support to help them with their studies. This can range from being loaned a piece of equipment, to having some extra help with maths, to having a one-to-one support worker.

How will you support me on my course?

We have a team of support staff who have experience of supporting learners with a wide range of support needs. We may also access other specialist staffing to meet your needs, for example an interpreter if you use British Sign Language.

Support for Learners with Learning Difficulties may include:

- Range of practically based courses and entry level qualifications
- In-class support assistant
- Support with reading / writing / number / computer skills
- 1:1 or small group tutorials
- Small class size
- Exam arrangements

Support for Learners with Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD) may include:

Learners who experience problems are often unaware that these may result from their being dyslexic. If you think you may be dyslexic the specialist Dyslexia Support Tutors can offer:

- confidential interview and advice
- dyslexia screening / full dyslexia assessment

Support for learners with a SpLD may include:

- Assistive technology, e.g. laptop computer, specialist software, dictaphone
- 1:1 or small group tutorials for course work / study skills
- In-class support assistant / note-taker
- 1:1 tutorial with specialist dyslexia tutor
- Sensitivity screening / coloured overlays
- Exam arrangements
- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors on supporting your specific learning difficulty

Support for Blind or Visually Impaired Learners may include:

- Specialist software and equipment e.g. screen reading / screen magnification software, big keys keyboards
- In-class support assistant
- Enlarged course materials
- Links with other agencies to secure Braille or audio-cassette support
- Discussion with Estates staff regarding any access difficulties you may experience.
- Exam arrangements
- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors

Support for D/deaf or Hard of Hearing Learners may include:

- Specialist equipment e.g. paging system, minicomms, etc
- In-class support assistant / communication support worker
- Links with other agencies to provide communication support specialists such as interpreters or speech-to-text operators
- Exam arrangements

- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors

Support for Learners with Physical and/or Mobility Difficulties

- Assistive technology e.g. joystick and trackerball mouse
- Adapted furniture
- Access to college lifts
- Disabled parking space
- Accessible toilets
- Mobile and fixed hoists
- Area with changing couch
- Discussion with Estates staff regarding any access difficulties you may experience
- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors

Support for Learners with Mental Health Needs

- 1:1 tutorial support / access to key learning support assistant
- In-class support if appropriate
- Confidential advice, support and advocacy from student support worker.
- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors

Support for Learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Needs

- 1:1 tutorial support / access to key learning support assistant
- In-class support
- Confidential advice, support and advocacy from student support worker.
- Provision of information, advice and awareness training to your tutors

What if I have other support needs?

Personal Care and Medical Support

It is important that you let us know if you have any particular personal or medical care needs. We have support workers who can meet some personal care needs but we do not have our own medical staff and cannot administer any medication. We have first aiders who are trained to cope with emergencies.

In order to assess your support needs we may need to carry out an Individual Risk Assessment with you. This is to ensure that you are not put into an environment or situation that may adversely affect your health or well-being.

4. EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT

Will I get support with my exams and assessments?

It is very important that you let your tutor or the Learning Support Co-ordinator know as early as possible if you need special arrangements for your exams.

If you are entitled to any special arrangements, the Examination Officer will arrange this for you with the appropriate examination boards.

Special arrangements granted may include:

- additional time
- a computer (without the use of the spell-checker)
- a reader and / or writer
- alternative room arrangements
- specially prepared papers e.g. large type
- rest breaks

5. HIGHER EDUCATION

Is support available for learners on higher education courses?

The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is a grant which can help pay for study-related costs that higher education students incur because of their disability. You need to apply to your local education authority and we strongly advise you to submit your application early before the start of your course.

6. PHYSICAL ACCESS AND FACILITIES

What is access to College like?

Campus	Disabled Car Parking	Disabled Toilets	Wheelchair access to classrooms *	Wheelchair access to catering facilities	Lifts to all floors **	Electric hoist
The College, Ystrad Mynach	√	√	√	√	√	√
The College, Rhymney	√	√	√	√	√	x
The College @Bargoed	√	√	√	N/A	N/A	x
The College @Blackwood	√ Pay and Display	√	√ (1)	N/A	N/A	x
The College @Abervalley	√	√	√	N/A	√	x

*Not all classrooms accessible. Centralised timetabling system will be used to relocate classes.

** Not all parts of building accessible by lift. Centralised timetabling system will be used to relocate classes.

The majority of Facultys and academic services are located at the main site in Ystrad Mynach. The College's buildings are extremely diverse, and include both purpose-built properties and buildings converted from other uses. The College has carried out major building improvements and is working on continually improving its facilities to make it accessible for all the people who use it.

Facilities include:

- Clear signage, including Braille signage at lifts
- Wide automatic opening doors
- Designated parking bays available for disabled motorists
- Disabled toilets
- Hearing loop at reception

7. OTHER SUPPORT AVAILABLE

What if I need other information or advice?

Student Services may be able to advise and help with:

- Accessing a non-repayable grant
- Transport
- Day Nursery
- Free meals
- Careers guidance
- Applying to University
- Examination entries and special requirements for examinations
- Learning Support
- Study Support
- Personal problems
- Benefits information
- Health
- Confidential guidance and referral service

You may find some of our other policies helpful. They are available from Student Services.

- Equal Opportunities
- Health & Safety
- Inclusive Learning
- Child protection & Vulnerable Adults
- Single Equality Scheme

There are many organisations that offer help and advice to learners with disabilities, both locally and nationally.

SKILL Wales can answer queries from disabled students, their families or professionals working with disabled students in Wales.

Contacting SKILL Wales:

Telephone: 0800 328 5050
Textphone: 0800 068 2422
Email: info@skill.org.uk

SKILL Wales
Suite 14, 2nd Floor
The Executive Centre
Temple Court
Cathedral Road
Cardiff
CF11 9HA

8. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS PROCEDURE

What if I want to make a complaint/give feedback?

If you would like to comment on any aspect of college life, including anything in this document, or if you want to tell us how we can make things better, please talk to us and if there is a problem we will try to resolve the issue as quickly and fairly as possible.

As a first step you should speak with the Learning Support Manager or your course tutor or Head of Faculty. If this cannot resolve the problem, we have a complaints procedure to follow. Details are available through Student Services.

9. SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME

The College will apply its Single Equality Scheme to all aspects of its operations.

10. STATEMENT REVIEW

Each year we review the content and layout of this Disability Statement. If you would like to make any comments please contact Sue Shephard, Learning Support Manager.

Tel: 01443 810077

E-mail: sshephard@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk

This statement will be reviewed in June 2012.

WANT TO FIND OUT MORE?

If so, look at the reason for the contact, and then telephone or e-mail the person below.
You may phone Reception on 01443 816888 and ask that they contact the person for you.

Student Services/Support

Named Persons	E-mail/Telephone
Joan Siddle (Vice Principal, Student Services/Support)	jsiddle@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810093
Steven Place (Deputy Head Student Services)	splace@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810003

Learning Support

Named Persons	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Susan Shephard (Learning Support Manager)	sshephard@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810077	Learning Support – all enquiries for additional support on mainstream provision.
Laura Croft (Learning Difficulties and Disabilities Support Co-ordinator)	lcroft@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 816888 Ext: 4113	Support for learners with a disability or learning difficulty, SpLD (Dyslexia) support.
Carol Hawkins (Essential Skills Co-ordinator)	chawkins@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 816888 Ext: 4170	Literacy/Numeracy assessment / support on your course.

Adult & Continuing Education

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
David Jones (Head of School)	djones04@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810005	All enquiries for Pre entry/entry level provision.

Admissions

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Jody Morgan (Admissions Officer)	jmorgan02@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 0870 8502348	Course information . All queries re: Admissions.

Welfare

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Helena Vickery (Welfare Officer)	hvickery@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 816888 Ext: 4167	Student welfare - Confidential guidance and referral service Personal problems Student Union

Examinations

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Teresa Padfield (Examinations Officer)	tpadfield@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810135	Examination entries Special arrangements for examinations

Grants

Named Persons	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Paula Roberts/Amy Weaver (Grants Officers)	proberts02@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk aweaver@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810095	Financial help: Assembly Learning Grants Individual Learning Account Financial Contingency Fund
Amelia Bond (Grants Officer)	abond@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk 01443 816888 Ext: 4079	Educational Maintenance Allowance Free Meals Transport

Day Nursery

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Gail Harris (Day Nursery Manager)	gharris@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 814237	Admitting your child to Day Nursery

Basic Skills/ESOL		
Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Cathryn Sanders (Deputy Head of Rhymney College)	csanders@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810128	Classes at The College or in the community to help with reading, writing and number skills and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL)

Student Services (The College Rhymney)

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Nikki Jones (Administrator)	njones02@ystrad-mynach.ac.uk Tel: 01443 810128	Enquiries for The College Rhymney

@ Centres

Named Person	E-mail/Telephone	Contact for:
Sue Davies (@ Centre Co-ordinator)	sdavies@ystrad-mynach.sc.uk Tel: 01495 227950	Enquiries for the @ Centres