

Support for Learners with Disabilities (including learning differences such as dyslexia)

St Padarn's is committed to ensuring that disability does not provide a barrier to full participation in learning and teaching, facilities, and services for existing and prospective learners.

A person has a disability if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (Equality Act 2010). Substantial means **'more than minor or trivial'**. Long-term means it has lasted for at least 12 months, it is likely to last at least 12 months, or it is likely to last for the rest of the life of the person. Disability covers a wide range of physical and mental impairments, including physical and mobility difficulties, hearing impairments, visual impairments, specific learning differences including dyslexia, medical conditions, and mental health problems.

St Padarn's has a responsibility to make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability.

If you are attending a one-off meeting, webinar or training session, whether on-line or in person, please let the event coordinator (this will be the person who sends you information about the event) know so we can make adjustments for you.

If you are on a St Padarn's programme and have, or think you have, a disability we want to do our best to ensure that this isn't a barrier to your learning. In order for us to make reasonable adjustments for you then you need to take the following steps.

Declare – Evidence – Assessment - Support

Please be assured we will encourage you and support you as you go through them.

1. Declare it

The first step to getting support is to tell us about it. This can be done when you register for a programme but can be done later at any point in your studies with us. You may be unsure whether you do have a learning need. If this is the case please talk to your personal tutor, or you can email the Learning Support Team at learningsupport@stpadarns.ac.uk.

2. Provide **evidence**

Evidence will be needed in order for the next part of the process to happen. If you are registered as disabled, then you will already have paperwork to evidence your disability. For a medical condition or mental health problem evidence from your doctor should be sufficient. For learning differences such as dyslexia a diagnostic assessment will be needed. If you don't have this already, we can put you in touch with an organisation with which we work closely.

If you are a Formation for Licensed Ministry Candidate, we will seek to support you in getting a diagnostic assessment where appropriate.

3. Learning needs **assessment**

For learners on accredited courses a learning needs assessment will be undertaken by making an application to Student Finance for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA). We will help you make this application. If your application is successful, they will organise a learning needs assessment for you. This identifies what support you will need in order to successfully undertake your studies. This assessment gives us specialist information on the adjustments we need to consider in order to support you in your learning, such as extensions to assignment deadlines. It will also recommend whether you need to be provided with things like equipment, specialist software, and/or one to one support. It will also then approve the finances to cover this provision and they will arrange it for you. This is a grant and not a loan, you will not have to pay it back.

If you choose not to apply for the DSA there may still be some standardised reasonable adjustments we can make for you, if these are justified by the evidence provided.

If you are a Formation for Licensed Ministry candidate not on an accredited course please contact learningsupport@stpadarns.ac.uk to discuss assessment.

4. **Support** plan

Once we have the learning needs assessment, we will put together a Support Plan for you, which will go to all the people involved in supporting you in your studies, e.g., tutors, placement supervisor (where applicable) and librarian. This plan won't give details of your disability, but it will explain what adjustments we need to make for you. The adjustments will depend on your disability but could be things like longer library loans or extensions to assignment deadlines. You will be part of putting this plan together, and you will see it and sign it before it goes to anyone.

If you request support before the needs assessment is completed, if standardised reasonable adjustments are justified by the supporting evidence an interim learning support plan will be put in place.

If you choose not to go through the DSA process (if you are on an academic programme), or with the process of assessment determined by St Padarn's (if you are not on an academic programme) only standardised reasonable adjustments justified by supporting evidence will be put in place.

The Learning Support Team are here to help you through this process so please don't be daunted by it. However, you do need to go through this process to get the adjustments and support needed because we take your learning and needs seriously. The pharmacy doesn't hand out drugs because you think they will help you; we do it properly with a doctor deciding, so you get the right medicine. So too with learning support – a bit of process means we can make sure you get what is actually going to work well for you.