



## Disability Support Services

National College of Ireland believe the most important first step is to make sure that you can access supports in an open relaxed, friendly and confidential way. The college is committed to providing equal access to education and equal opportunities for students with disabilities. NCI encourages students to be open about their disability and to discuss their individual needs with the Disability Officer. It is very important that students disclose a disability early in the academic year to ensure that necessary supports are provided. By delaying disclosure of a disability, students may be missing out on essential supports which can help with everything from participation in lectures right through to sitting exams.

### Disability Act

The Disability Act 2005 link to text of Act includes a number of positive action measures designed to advance and underpin participation of people with disabilities in society.

Part 3 of the Act in particular places a statutory obligation on public bodies, which includes NCI, to ensure that all buildings, information and services are fully accessible to people with disabilities. There is an additional requirement to integrate, where practicable and appropriate, the services for students with disabilities with those for other students.

The Act legislates that all public bodies appoint an 'Access Officer' to provide assistance to people with disabilities in accessing services and facilities.

### Services Provided

**Needs Assessment** - A Disability Officer will work to address the specific support needs of students, prospective students with disabilities and staff as well. This includes:

- Arrange support providers, including note-takers, library assistants, proof-readers, personal assistants etc.
- Help students to apply for funded supports through the ESF fund for students with disabilities.
- Liaise with a number of departments across the college to make sure that your specific support requirements are met, for example
  - Academic Departments;
  - Exams Office;
  - Admissions Office;
  - Library; and
  - IT Department

**Assistive Technology** - Assistive Technology plays an important role in reducing the impact of disability on the academic success of students. The key role of the Assistive Technology Officer is to provide training, back up and support for students with disabilities.

Assistive technology is any device, piece of equipment, or software that can help reduce the negative impact of a disability on a student's academic success. Some examples of assistive technology include voice recognition software, large print display software, Braille embossing, and modified keyboards, mouse etc.

**Academic Support** - An essay support / proofreading service is provided to students with dyslexia. The purpose of this service is to assist with structure and presentation and to highlight errors in spelling and grammar. Essay support is not a tutoring service and does not assist with any issues relating to content. Please see Guidelines for Essay Support Service.

**Library Support** - The key role of the Library is to support students to use all aspects of the library resources to maximize your academic success. Students with certain disabilities (e.g. hearing impaired, visually impaired, mobility difficulty, specific learning difficulty) may require specific additional supports to facilitate equal access to the same resources as other students. This is determined during your Educational Needs Assessment with the Disability Officer. Some of the supports available include:

- Extended library loans;
- Access to electronic books;
- Print credit;
- Access to electronic readers;
- Adapted furniture;