

WORKING TO SUPPORT
STUDENTS LIVING WITH

ASD OR ASPERGER'S SYNDROME



STUDENT SERVICES



2008-2009

Make it in the modern world.

Edinburgh's Telford College, 350 West Granton Road, Edinburgh EH5 1QE

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📠 0131 559 4111

💻 www.ed-coll.ac.uk

Working with Students who have ASD or Asperger's Syndrome

- Between August 2006 and June 2007, more than 15 people living with Asperger's Syndrome or on the Autistic Spectrum were students at Edinburgh's Telford College.
- They studied a range of subjects at different levels from Access to HND to include Administration, Building and Engineering, Intermediate 2, Highers and Performing Arts.
- Some students required additional support on their course and some did not.
- This leaflet gives information on the type of support we can offer to Students and how we assess their support needs.
- The Student Services Team works in partnership with the student, teaching staff and support workers.

How we aim to support students in College

The College is committed to supporting students with ASD or Asperger's Syndrome in the best and most appropriate way we reasonably can.

This includes:

- Access to advice and guidance at drop-in times or by appointments
- A named contact person who can liaise with the student and their course tutor and lecturers

Working to support students living with ASD or Asperger's Syndrome

- Providing advice and guidance to teaching staff on support in class
- Help to apply for assistive learning technology, such as laptops and MP3 recorders
- Access to a member of the Student Services Team to discuss any problems or worries you may have about your course or course work
- If appropriate we can often offer One to One support. The College works with a variety of agencies to find the most appropriate support for students (within the budget we have for this)
- The Student Services Team will make sure we give you consistent support by asking you for relevant information and giving you any important information about what is happening
- Student Services can also work with you and a contact person of your choice. Please let us know if there is someone who supports you regularly that you would like to be involved in discussing your support at College.

What to do if you are on the autistic spectrum or live with Asperger's and are interested in applying for a course.

- You need to make an application by filling in the College application form. These are available from the College and online on the College website www.ed-coll.ac.uk
- A member of Student Services staff can help you fill it in if you need help.

How do I tell the College that I am living with ASD or Asperger's Syndrome?

- You must tick the box in Section 3 of the form to say you have a learner support need. You also need to fill in the box for your disability category (category 10, disability not listed).
- If you want to write "ASD" or "Asperger's Syndrome" on the form, you will find there is enough space in the area next to the question "Do you have a learner support need?"

I have handed in my application form, what happens next?

- One of the Student Services Officers will contact you by phone or email to ask what kind of support you would need if you were successful in getting a place at College.
- If you prefer, you can arrange with the Student Services Officer who calls you to meet up and discuss what kind of support you need.
- You can bring along a support worker or family member to the meeting if you wish to. It is important that you give as much information as possible in your answers.
- If you do not want or need any support while you are at College, please tell us; you make the decision on whether you have support or not.
- Please note that answering these questions does not guarantee that you will receive this support. It also does not mean that you have been offered a place at College.

Examples of the questions Student Services might ask are as follows:

- Do you have any other common support needs associated with ASD or Asperger's Syndrome such as dyslexia, dyspraxia etc?
- What kind of support have you had in the past?
- Do you have someone who helps you outside of College? We can give you details of local organisations, if you would like information
- Would you need access to a "quiet area" in college?
- Would you like regular progress updates from your tutors? Would you need our help to set these up?
- Do you need a regular contact person you can see (when available) to discuss how you are feeling about College?
- Would you like someone to help take you round the building if you are offered a place? We can help you with practising routes to your classrooms and give you a map
- Teaching staff will look at the past achievements you note on your application form and compare these with the entry requirements and will decide whether you are suitable for the course and the level of study
- This process is standard for all students.

Some courses require you to come in for an interview.

If you require support for this, please contact Student Services to let us know:

- The sort of support you will need during this interview
- The date, time and place of your interview
- The course you are being interviewed for

Please do this as soon as you have been asked to come for an interview. Student Services staff ask that you understand the problems in providing support at short notice. Some flexibility may be required to provide appropriate support at a suitable time.

I have been offered a place on the course; what happens now?

If you require someone to work with you and provide 1 to1 support in College (such as a note taker, study buddy etc), Student Services will do the following:

- We will ask teaching staff to give us a copy of the timetable for your course. Please note that timetables are often not available until the start of term and may be subject to changes
- We will aim to find a 1 to 1 support worker (if required) who will suit your needs and will be available to work with you in College

Working to support students living with ASD or Asperger's Syndrome

- We will let teaching staff know about the support you need in class, where they have responsibility to help you. (For example, arranging for notes from the class to be given to you in an accessible format or making changes to assessment materials)
- We will also pass on to your tutors any information you consider important and you would like them to know about
- We will be there for you if you need to ask questions or find out more about what life will be like at College.

Student Services will do everything we can to provide you with reasonable and appropriate support.

However, sometimes this is not possible due to the following:

- Support workers often work part-time and have other work commitments. Sometimes they may not be available to work with you in every class.
- Timetables are always subject to changes, and it is often not possible for support workers to fit into new class times. This might mean you have to get a new support worker.
- Student Services are not involved in developing timetables we are not able to organise support until we get information about timetable changes.

What you should do before you accept a place on the course:

- You need to understand that the support you have asked for is not guaranteed but Student Services will always aim to provide support wherever reasonable and possible.
- You must take this into consideration if you decide to accept a place on course.
- Student Services staff will be available to answer any questions while you are applying for a course and throughout your course, once you have accepted a place.

Contacts in Edinburgh for ASD or Asperger's Syndrome:

Number 6, an agency which specialises in support for people living with ASD and High Functioning Asperger's Syndrome and their families will be able to provide advice and guidance of their support and other support networks in Edinburgh. They can be contacted at:

Number 6
6 Melville Crescent
Edinburgh
EH3 7JA
Tel: **0131 240 2370**
Email: **oss@autisminitiatives.org**
www.number6.org.uk

How to contact Student Services:

You can contact Student Services by email on:
learnersupport@ed-coll.ac.uk

You can also contact us by telephone on **0131 559 4000**.

Our office is on the Ground Floor of the Campus building at **350 West Granton Road, Edinburgh**.

Good luck with your application!

NOTES

A large, empty white rectangular space designed for writing notes. It is enclosed within a thick orange border that matches the header. The space is completely blank, with no lines or text.



Edinburgh's Telford College strives to be an inclusive College that welcomes and supports learners from all age and ethnic groups, genders, abilities, sexual orientations, cultural and religious backgrounds.

The College has developed policies to ensure that unfair discrimination does not occur and is ethically and legally committed to equal opportunity in all institutional areas of activity. Appropriate remedial and, if necessary, disciplinary action will be taken in order to eliminate discrimination wherever it occurs. Telford is founded on the principles of creating an inclusive College, one College for all.



Course Hotline:

0131 559 4000
www.ed-coll.ac.uk

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