

Greater Brighton Metropolitan Disability Statement

Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years

From September 2014 the definition of Special Educational Needs (SEN) has been extended to include young people up to 25 years of age; the definition includes 'disabilities' and 'learning difficulties'. This means that Further Education Colleges are now required to 'have a regard to' the new 0-25 SEND Code of Practice and have a duty to co-operate with the local authority to identify and meet the needs of young people with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). At Greater Brighton Metropolitan College (GB MET) we are committed to complying with the duty and ensuring that we meet the needs of our students who have special educational needs and disabilities.

This Disability Statement refers to the following definitions, which are taken from the Equality Act 2010.

A young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. If they have:

- a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A Person has a disability if;

- they have a physical or mental impairment, and
- the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on P's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Removing Barriers for Disabled Students

GB MET is an inclusive organisation that recognises its responsibility to remove barriers to learning and success for all students, particularly those with disabilities and/or learning disabilities.

The College has a responsibility to:

- Eliminate disability related harassment
- Eliminate unlawful disability discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity for people with disabilities and others
- Promote positive attitudes towards people with disabilities
- Encourage participation by people with disabilities in public life
- Take steps to take account of people's disabilities even where that involves treating people with disabilities more favourably than others

As part of the admissions process, potential students for full time and part time courses are asked to disclose their individual needs by indicating on the application form if they have a learning difficulty and/or disability. We encourage all students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities to disclose to us so that, if necessary, we can discuss reasonable adjustments at an early stage.

If a student discloses a learning difficulty and/or disability to the College they will be sent an Additional Learning Support Disclosure Form. The completion and return of this form provides an opportunity to inform us of any reasonable adjustments that may be needed from any of our services.

All the information that is provided is handled sensitively and is given only to staff that need to know

about the disability or the reasonable adjustments.

Students are given further opportunities for disclosure at enrolment and once the course has started.

Students with a learning difficulty or disability are assessed and monitored by the Additional Learning Support Team to ensure the fairness of treatment and consideration of the reasonable adjustments a student may need.

Potential students are given the opportunity to request support at their Application Review via an online form.

The College can provide transition support for students with Disabilities or Learning Difficulties where this is required. This can include visits to the College during quiet times and meeting key members of staff.

Taster days and induction provide opportunities to get to know more about the College and its services.

Types of Support Available

There is a wide range of support available to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities:

- 1:1 small group and drop-in support
- Learning Support Assistants working in class and offering support outside of class
- Support from Specialist Teachers
- Communication Support Workers for deaf students
- Mobility support
- Equipment loans
- Use of assistive technology
- Course materials adjusted to suit needs
- Assessments for exam concessions
- Note takers
- Study skills support
- A screening system, which identifies students who may require access arrangements for their exams.
- Pastoral mentor support
- Mental health support
- Counselling

Buildings and Accommodation

GB MET operates from five sites: Pelham Street and Brighton East Campus (Wilson Avenue) in Brighton, Shoreham Airport, Broadwater and West Durrington Campuses in Worthing.

All support teaching rooms in our buildings are accessible and have lifts. Some general rooms in Pelham Street can only be accessed by stairs.

There are accessible toilets in all buildings and there is a variety of assistive technology, including hardware and software, available in the Learning Resource Centers and Flexible Learning areas. Students may also borrow equipment from the Additional Learning Support Department for use in class.

Examinations and Assessments

The Equality Act 2010 requires us to make reasonable adjustments for students with a learning difficulty and/or disability so that they are not placed at a substantial disadvantage in comparison with students who are non-disabled.

Awarding bodies allow access arrangements for some people with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. These are called examination concessions.

Appropriate arrangements will be made for students who have been assessed as needing examination concessions and reasonable adjustments will be put in place. The reasonable adjustments may include; extra time, a reader and / or a scribe and would be a reflection of a student's requirements in the classroom.

Depending on the type of access arrangement being requested an awarding body may ask for a letter from a GP or specialist, an Educational Psychologist's report or some other documentation. These documents may only be valid for a fixed period and must include specific information required by the awarding body.

When a student starts College, they will have the opportunity to speak with a member of the Additional Learning Support Department about examination concessions.

Higher Education

Support is available for the following if you are eligible for a Disabled Student Allowance:

- Dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties
- Hearing or visual impairment
- Mobility difficulties
- Chronic illness
- Autism and Asperger's syndrome, ADHD, OCD
- Mental health difficulties
- Other unseen difficulties (e.g. Epilepsy)
- Long term health condition

Support available through the DSA process may include:

- Specialist equipment
- Software
- Specialist support to assist students

The College also has a team of facilitators who can provide in-class support such as practical support, note-taking and library assistance.

Contact details:

We are happy to talk to students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities as well as parents/carers and advocates about coming to College and the services we are able to provide.

Head of Additional Learning Support
Fenella Potterton, fenella.potterton@gbmc.ac.uk

FE Support:
Brighton SEND Manager Melanie Heaven, melanie.heaven@gbmc.ac.uk
Or learningsupportbrighton@gbmc.ac.uk

Worthing SEND Manager Jackie Frost, Jackie.frost@gbmc.ac.uk
Or learningsupportworthing@gbmc.ac.uk

HE Support:
HE Disability Coordinator, Lee Baeza lee.baeza@gbmc.ac.uk

Applying for courses

The College's Admissions Team can give information about courses available at the MET. They can be contacted on:

Brighton: 01273 667704 or admissions-brighton@gbmc.ac.uk

Worthing: 0845 155 60 60 or admissions-worthing@gbmc.ac.uk

Statement approved	20 October 2020
Signed (Chair of Governors)	<i>Sue Berelowitz</i>
Due for review	September 2021