

## ***Policy on Learning Disabilities***

### **Support for a Specific Learning Difficulty when studying at Queen's**

Queen's takes learning disabilities seriously and seeks to work with students such that they achieve their full potential in the course of their studies. To enable this to happen, and to ensure we treat students as fairly as possible, we use the process outlined below. We recognize that there are a number of specific learning difficulties (SpLD): dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia and dysgraphia, and that they manifest themselves in a variety of ways.

#### ***Raising the possibility of a SpLD***

- 1) If a student thinks that they might have a specific learning difficulty, they are encouraged to speak with their personal tutor in the first instance.
- 2) Following the consultation with their personal tutor, students should carry out an initial screener (the Adult Checklist), which gives some initial guidance as to whether they may have the most common specific learning difficulty: dyslexia. The checklist may be downloaded from: <http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/about-dyslexia/adults-and-business/i-think-i-might-be-dyslexic.html> If a positive result is obtained, they should inform the Academic Dean accordingly.
- 3) The student will then be advised about arranging a full diagnostic assessment and if there may be support for the cost of this\*. Advice about this process can be found on Moodle: Academic and Foundation Information/ General Information. A diagnosis will allow the student to apply for Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) which provides tailored support according to need. Support for applications for DSA is available from Registry.

*\*sponsored students may ask their sponsoring church for support, independent students should seek advice about bursaries which may contribute to some of the cost, unfortunately the responsibility for the cost of this diagnosis rests with the student. Queen's does not receive Government Hefce funding and therefore does not have access to "Access to Learning" funding which is used by Universities to cover some of these costs.*

#### ***Supporting students with an assessment for SpLD:***

Students may also bring a pre-existing assessment; if so, they should present a copy to the Foundation. The following support is offered to students who have a formal assessment for dyslexia:

- The capacity to tailor assignments/assessment according to the recommendations of the dyslexia report. Copies of the dyslexia assessment must be submitted to the Foundation in order for this to happen.
- The encouragement to apply for Disability Support Allowance (DSA) from Student Finance England (SFE). DSA gives students access to a wide variety of resources, equipment and support. Further guidance on how to apply for DSA can be found on:
  - o <http://www.yourdsa.com/dsa/roadmap/>
  - o And a video guide on: <http://www.youtube.com/embed/Ter5d0I70lg>
- Once an application is submitted to SFE, they will require the student to attend a Needs Assessment session to confirm the extent of the support to be offered and the resources to be made available. Once the Needs Assessment is completed, and the support to be offered outlined therein, the student should share this with the Director of Studies (UG programmes) (Rachel Starr) or the Director of the Centre for Discipleship and Theology (Dave Allen) , so that formal 1-to-1 support for the student's learning can be arranged.