

Guide to providing evidence of your disability for support in DCU

You must provide relevant evidence to support your diagnosis.

When submitting your evidence of disability documentation please make sure that it has been completed by the appropriate medical professional for your disability.  A list of the appropriate professionals for each disability type (e.g. blind/vision impaired or dyslexia) is available on the table below.

## General Disability Supports

Students who are unable to provide the disability evidence from the source specified below can avail of a general level of disability support (e.g. Exam Accommodations, advice on assistive technology and access to a Disability Officer).

Students with a Specific Learning Difficulty, who do not have a full report from an Educational Psychologist, may present evidence of a history of a specific learning difficulty or receiving educational supports e.g. Part D of the DARE Application Form or RACE (Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations) accommodations.

## Specialist Disability Supports

Students requesting additional disability supports, such as Assistive Technology or one-to-one Occupational Therapy/Learning support must attend a Needs Assessment meeting with a Disability Officer. Students are required to provide the disability documentation as outlined on the table below.

## EU, Visiting or International students

[EU, Visiting or International students](http://www.tcd.ie/disability/prospective/international.php) may register with the Disability Service for general disability supports.

Visiting or International students do not qualify for supports through the Irish HEA [Fund for Students with Disabilities](http://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/fund-for-students-with-disabilities/). Visiting and Study Abroad students are advised make contact DCU DLSS in advance of applying for admission to discuss their support requirements.

## Table of Evidence

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| **Type of Disability**  | **Type of Documentation** | **Appropriate Professional** | **Age Limit** |
| Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) /Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report | A report from an appropriately qualified consultant psychiatrist OR psychologist OR neurologist OR paediatrician providing a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD |  |
| Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger’s Syndrome). | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report | A report from an appropriately qualified consultant psychiatrist OR psychologist OR neurologist OR paediatrician providing a diagnosis of ASD |  |
| Blind/Vision Impaired | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report.N.B. Evidence from high street retailers not acceptable. | A report from one or more of the following:* ophthalmologist/ophthalmic surgeon providing a diagnosis of severe reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses. The diagnosis must be in relation to best-corrected visual acuity or field of vision
* a letter from the National Council for the Blind of Ireland confirming registration
* a letter from the principal from a school for the blind confirming attendance
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| Deaf/Hard of Hearing: | Evidence of Disability Form ORExisting reportN.B. Evidence from high street retailers not acceptable. | A report from one or more of the following:* an audiogram from a professionally qualified audiologist and/or ENT consultant, indicating moderate to profound bilateral hearing loss (i.e. above 40dB)
* a letter from the principal from a school for the deaf confirming attendance
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| Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) - Dyspraxia/ Dysgraphia. | Evidence of Disability Form ORExisting report | A report from a psychologist OR an occupational therapist OR neurologist diagnosing developmental co-ordination disorder (dyspraxia) OR Physiotherapist |  |
| Intellectual Disability  | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report from relevant Specialist | Relevant Specialist |  |
| Mental Health Condition | Evidence of DisabilityForm  | A report from a consultant psychiatrist OR specialist registrar | Less than five years |
| Neurological Condition (incl. Epilepsy and Brain Injury). | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report | NeurologistOROther relevant Consultant |  |
| Physical disability/Mobility  | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report | A report from an orthopaedic consultant OR other relevant specialist diagnosing a significant physical or mobility difficulty |  |
| Significant ongoing illness  | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report  | A report diagnosing a significant ongoing illness such as:* Diabetes type 1 – endocrinologist OR paediatrician
* Cystic fibrosis – consultant respiratory physician OR pediatrician
* Gastroenterology condition – gastroenterologist
* Other – consultant OR consultant registrar
 | Less than five years |
| Speech and Language Communication Disorder | Evidence of DisabilityForm ORExisting report | A report from a Speech and Language Therapist  |  |
| Specific LearningDifficulty (incl.Dyslexia &Dyscalculia) | A full Psychological Assessment Report **OR**In the case of older reports **additional evidence** of relevant attainment scores or a communication from the State Examinations Commission regarding RACE can be submitted to support your application. Such information is available within the DARE Educational Impact Statement completed by schools**OR**Part D of the DARE Application form | The report of a psycho-educational assessment by a psychologist OR by an assessor (PATOSS accredited) diagnosing a specific learning difficultyStudents may be asked fortheir latest assessment scores/educationalreports to assist HEIs in determiningthe appropriate level of supportAll tests used in the assessment must be valid, reliable and age appropriate |  |