

Guide to Providing Evidence of Disability

Support for students with disabilities

There are a range of supports available for students with disabilities in TU Dublin. To access these disability supports we require you to submit evidence of your disability. The evidence of disability you provide is used to assess the impact of your disability and ensure that you get appropriate support. It will be assessed by professionals in our institution who have expertise and an in-depth knowledge of the impact of disability in the academic environment.

What supports are available for short term illness or injury?

For students who experience a short term or temporary disability (e.g. injury or temporary illness) there are other Students Services available for example: Student Health, Student Counselling and Examinations Office, if temporary exam accommodations are required. See here for further information: <https://www.tudublin.ie/for-students/student-services-and-support/>

What documents do I need to provide to show Evidence of my Disability?

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 is provided in the table below. Students may provide either a report from their medical professional or complete the Evidence of Disability Form, which can be found here: [Evidence-of-Disability-Form.pdf](#).

Guide to providing evidence of your disability for support in TU Dublin

Disability Category	Evidence Required	Age of Report
Autism	Report from an appropriately qualified consultant psychiatrist, psychologist, neurologist, or paediatrician providing a diagnosis of autism.	No age limit.
ADD / ADHD	Report from an appropriately qualified consultant psychiatrist, psychologist, neurologist, or paediatrician providing a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD.	No age limit.

Blind / Vision Impaired	One or more of: ophthalmologist/ophthalmic surgeon report; NCBI registration letter; letter from principal of a school for the blind confirming attendance.	No age limit.
Deaf / Hard of Hearing	One or more of: audiogram from qualified, registered audiologist and/or ENT consultant; letter from principal of a school for the deaf; report confirming cochlear implant or bone anchored hearing aid.	No age limit.
Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (DCD) / Dyspraxia / Dysgraphia	Report from an occupational therapist, chartered physiotherapist, neurologist, or paediatrician diagnosing DCD/dyspraxia. The CAO/DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable for this category.	No age limit.
Mental Health Condition (e.g. bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, clinical depression, severe anxiety, OCD, severe eating disorders, psychosis)	Report from a consultant psychiatrist listed on the Specialist Register of the Medical Council of Ireland, or a psychiatric registrar where the student is under consultant care.	Less than 5 years old.
Neurological Condition (e.g. Brain Injury, Epilepsy)	Report from a neurologist or other relevant consultant. Evidence may also be provided by a registrar who is part of the consultant's team.	No age limit.
Significant Ongoing Illness (e.g. Type 1 Diabetes, Cystic Fibrosis, Severe Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis, IBD, Chronic Fatigue, Cancer)	Relevant consultant specialist report diagnosing the condition. Examples include endocrinologist, paediatrician, respiratory physician, gastroenterologist, consultant, or consultant registrar.	Less than 5 years old.

Speech and Language Communication Disorder	Report from a speech and language therapist.	No age limit.
Physical Disability / Mobility Difficulty	Report from an orthopaedic consultant or other relevant specialist diagnosing a significant physical or mobility difficulty.	No age limit.
Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)	Psycho-educational assessment by a psychologist or appropriately qualified assessor diagnosing a specific learning difficulty. The CAO/DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable for this category.	No age limit.

Further information on Evidence of Disability required can be found on: [Fund for Students with Disabilities Guidelines](#)

What if I have no documents in table above?

- **Students who are unable to provide the disability evidence** from the source specified in the table above can avail of a general level of disability support (e.g. limited Exam Accommodations / Academic Supports and advice on assistive technology) by providing evidence of a disability from a General Practitioner or other health professional (e.g. Psychologist).
- **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. as part of the DARE Educational Impact Statement or State Examinations Commission letter regarding RACE (Reasonable Accommodations at the Certificate Examinations) accommodations, or evidence of previous provision of accommodations in post-secondary education or training centres.

EU, Visiting or International students including Erasmus

EU, Visiting or International students may register with the Disability Service for general disability supports. EU, Visiting or International students do not qualify for supports through the Irish HEA Fund for Students with Disabilities. Visiting and Study Abroad students are advised to contact us in advance of applying for admission to discuss their support requirements. Evidence of Disability must be provided in English and if provided by home University it must be on their official headed paper.

Examples of Documents that are NOT sufficient for Registration with the DSS

- Reports that do not contain a diagnosis or official signature, where one is required
- Documentation missing key pages or conclusions
- Where recent evidence is required, reports that are outside the required timeframe
- Reports that have been altered or are illegible
- Letters from an inappropriate professional describing observed difficulties e.g. high-street optician, audiologist or chiropractor
- Self-referrals or self-written statements without supporting clinical evidence
- Prescriptions or Medication lists
- TU Dublin EC/PO Forms
- GP Sick Certificate
- Hospital or GP appointment letters / reminders
- Letter of discharge from a service which does not confirm the diagnosis or functional impact
- Non-diagnostic preliminary screening reports
- Self-assessment / online screening tool
- Photographs of medication, mobility aids, or assistive devices
- Photographs/ images that do not contribute to the verification of disability
- Blank documents

Please note: While these documents cannot be used as the sole evidence of disability, they may be submitted as supplemental documentation alongside appropriate diagnostic evidence, as listed in the table above