

## Description of Services

### Counselling/Psychology Service:

The Counselling/Psychology service provides:

#### Counselling

Students with disabilities may experience difficulty coping with their disability from time to time. They may, like many other students, experience difficulties adjusting to college life. The Institute provides a free and confidential counselling service for all students who are experiencing difficulties.

#### Study Skills

The Counselling Service provides training on improving study techniques and exam performance to individuals and groups. The service also provides leaflets with guidelines for enhancing study/exam performance.

### Careers & Appointments:

Career advice is available to all students and particular attention is given to students with disabilities/ specific learning difficulties. Career Service Staff will liaise with appropriate potential employers to help raise awareness of the employability of graduates with disabilities.

### Examination Procedures:

Arrangements will be put in place to ensure that students with disabilities/specific learning difficulties are not disadvantaged during examinations. Specific examination arrangements will be discussed with each student on an individual basis.

#### These facilities include:

- Use of PC's and printing facilities in AT centre with member of computer services staff on duty.
- Use of readers or scribes
- Audio Exam papers
- Use of dictionary, where necessary
- Separate examination rooms, where necessary
- Extra time, where required.
- Rest periods may be provided for students
- Specialised furniture, where appropriate

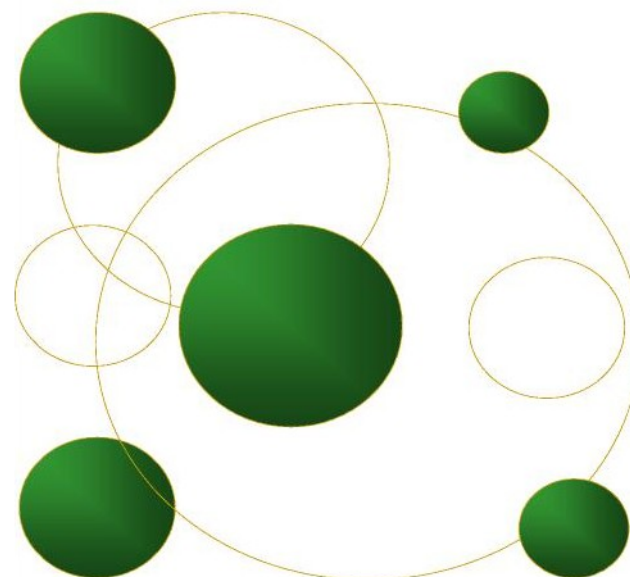
### Learning & Tutorial Support:

Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) can avail of Learning Support when registered with the disability support service.

For various reasons, students with disabilities may fall behind in their study. Subject specific tutorials can be arranged for students free of charge for those registered with the disability support office.

# Disability Support Services

A guide for students



USEFUL NUMBERS

- Disability Support Service Coordinator: 090 646 8141
- Learning Support Tutor: 646 8142
- Student Services Office: 090 646 8124
- Institute Counsellor: 090 646 8064
- Admissions Office: 090 646 8130

## Overview

The Institute welcomes and encourages applications from students with disabilities/specific learning difficulties. It aims to ensure that all students are given an opportunity to enter the Institute and, while here, to complete their studies successfully.

### Services include:

- Disability Support Service Coordinator
- DARE Admissions Procedure
- Orientation & Access
- Assistance with accommodation
- Funding to assist educational supports
- Assistive Technology
- Learning Support
- Specific Examination Arrangements
- Photocopying Services
- Tutorial Support
- Induction Loop Systems

Students with disabilities/specific learning difficulties should make contact with the Disability Support Service Coordinator Patricia Kearney as early as possible to discuss in confidence any facilities they may require during their course of study.

## Disability Support Service Coordinator

### The Disability Support Service Coordinator will aim to...

- Provide support and advice to students and prospective students with disabilities/specific learning difficulties.
- Set up the necessary support structures needed for the student to participate fully in college life.
- Advise and assist with administrative matters such as registration.
- Organise the necessary accommodations for examinations.
- Coordinate specific educational supports, such as assistive technology training, learning support, note-takers, readers, and tutorials.
- Advise on subject choice with particular relevance to impact of disability on participation and performance
- Increase awareness of disability within the college by running training programmes for staff and students.
- Coordinate applications for NAO (National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education) grants.

## Description of Services

**Admissions Procedure:** No applicant with the necessary academic requirements will be refused entry to a course on the grounds of a disability or learning difficulty. The Institute seeks to ensure that any applicant with a disability has a clear understanding of the facilities provided.

### **Athlone Institute of Technology is part of the Disability Access Route to Education (DARE).**

Dare is a college and university admissions scheme which offers places on a reduced points basis to school leavers with disabilities. Students who wish to apply for DARE should tick that they have a disability/specific learning difficulty on their CAO application and provide the additional information & documentation requested. Further information on the scheme is available from [www.accesscollege.ie](http://www.accesscollege.ie)

**Assistive Technology:** Athlone Institute of Technology provide a comprehensive Assistive Technology Service. This service is delivered throughout the College, and includes the services of an Assistive Technology (AT) Technical Officer and AT Tutor, providing A.T. enabled computers in various locations, in addition to a dedicated Assistive Technology Centre, portable devices such as laptops, adaptive keyboards, alternative mouse controls, radio aids, and induction loops available at information desk and in library, adaptive software such as text enlargement, mind mapping, voice recognition, read/write scanning, screen reading & literacy support software