

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.

Ascent Regional Assessment and Resource Centre

This service aims to ensure that every student who has, or suspects they have, a specific learning difficulty has a clear understanding of the facilities and services provided to help them complete their studies successfully. Students who suspect they may have a specific learning difficulty will be offered the opportunity to have their difficulty investigated further so that additional resources can be obtained to provide appropriate supports. There are two steps in the investigation process: screening and assessment. The Learning Support Tutor screens students. Screening is not a diagnosis, it may just indicate that something needs to be investigated further. If the outcome of the screening shows that there is a high probability that your difficulties in college are due to a specific learning difficulty, then you will be advised to have a full educational assessment with a Psychologist. The assessment is confidential, and the content of the report will be discussed and consented to by the student in question before it is forwarded to the Disability Liaison Officer.

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 dictionary, where necessary
- Separate examination rooms, where necessary
- Extra time, where required
- Rest periods may be provided for students
- Specialised furniture, where appropriate

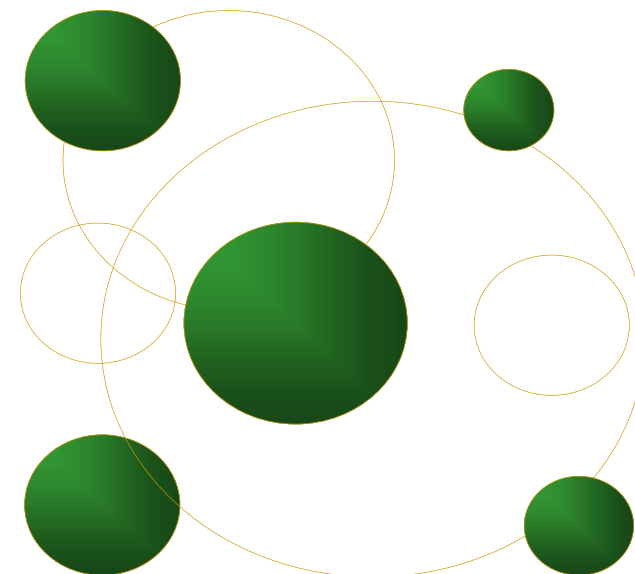
Learning & Tutorial Support:

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

For various reasons, students with disabilities/special needs may fall behind in lectures. 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 Liaison Officer:** 090 642 4435
 - **Learning Support Tutor:** 090 6424410
 - **Student Services Office:** 090 642 4491
 - **Institute Counsellor:** 090 6424574
 - **Admissions Office:** 090 6424489

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 Liaison Officer
- Supplementary 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 Liaison Officer Patricia Kearney as early as possible to discuss in confidence any facilities they may require during their course of study.

Disability Liaison

The Disability Liaison Officer, 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. Applicants with a disability should apply in the normal way through CAO and indicate they have a disability on the CAO application form.

Several Higher Education Institutions, including Athlone Institute of Technology, operate a supplementary admission procedure. Applicants who disclose that they have a disability/specific learning difficulty on their CAO application are sent a Supplementary Information Form by the CAO to complete. This is assessed by the disability admissions committee to measure the impact of their disability on their prior education. Details regarding closing date and required supporting documentation can be obtained by contacting the Disability Officer. Mature applicants with disabilities (23 years of age or over) should also complete the CAO supplementary information form, as it is used to identify the range of supports that students with disability/specific learning difficulties will need upon entry to college and also as an application for consideration under the supplementary admissions procedure.

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 and Radio Aids, Induction Loops available at information desk and in library, Adaptive software such as Text Enlargement, Mind-mapping, Voice Recognition, Read/Write Scanning, Screen Reading & Word Predictive Software , 'Text help-read and write gold'.