



Students with Disabilities

Professional placement can be a particularly challenging activity for students with disabilities or those with other health/ injury problems. Every reasonable effort is made to adapt the learning experiences and/ or assessment requirements of placements to meet the individual needs of students with disabilities. Students with a disability or injury that may impact on their participation in professional placement are encouraged to discuss their needs, preferably well before the placement commencing, with the Disability Advisers at Learning Connection or your Program Director if you wish. The objectives of such discussions are to:

- Clarify the nature and impact of the disability/ health issue within the placement setting
- Consider the potential problems that might be encountered within the practice setting (these are not always apparent in the first instance and hence discussion regarding this may highlight some unexpected issues)
- Develop a plan of action that will best support the student and support a positive relationship with the venue and/ or academic staff.

Confidentiality regarding a student's disability is assured both by the University and under the Disability and Discrimination Act (Commonwealth Government - Australia 1992). Under this legislation, students can discuss issues with a disability officer and this information need not be passed on to the placement venue without the students consent. It is important to note however, that considered self-disclosure of disability related issues has the potential benefit of enhanced student support and success.

Students with injuries (including short-term) are encouraged to notify appropriate staff of their injury to ensure the placement is structured and monitored appropriately. Attending to this as early as possible will assist in supporting the process and maintaining strong relationships with industrial partners.