

Advice for students with dyslexia

Many students on the course have dyslexia on arrival at the School of Medicine or are diagnosed with this during their time on the course. It does not cause a problem generally. The following notes will help you manage your situation with minimal disruption to your studies.

Even if you have been assessed as being dyslexic before starting your course, you will not get any help or course adjustments until Learning Support at the University have seen and assessed you, so go and see them as soon as possible. If there is a delay you may be struggling without help. We are not allowed to give extra time for exams, etc, until we have the documents from Learning Support.

Learning Support may offer much help, including study skills tutoring, specialised software and similar that will be of great help in your study. They may also suggest a number of adjustments to the course and to exam arrangements

It is acknowledged in the University, however, that arrangements for medical students can differ from that for the usual body of students due to fitness to practise issues. As a consequence, it has been agreed that students with dyslexia may have 25% extra time in written exams only-this does not include any skills-based exams. Also, students may record lectures but only if these are non-clinical in content. Permission to record must be obtained at every lecture. If you record without permission, this is a probity issue. Please refer to the GMC guidance “medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise” for further guidance on all these issues.

If any other requests are made by you on your exam arrangements forms, you may be allowed these but you will need to see Student Support so the reasons for this may be considered. Ultimately, we want you to be successful doctors and so your health, conduct and general professionalism are considered all through the course and not just after qualification.