

SUARTS POLICY | INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ACCESS TO EDUCATION

This Union Notes:

1. That under current UK and Arts London regulations, international students (including EU students) are not having their access requirements met e.g. dyslexia testing, access equipment, enabler support.
2. That under current regulations around the world, some students are not entitled to any access support from their home countries.
3. Due to a combination of UK and Arts London regulations, and regulations in other countries, many international students are in a situation where they simply will not get their access requirements met whilst studying at Arts London.
4. Many students from overseas will have a 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restriction on their visa to study in the UK and as such this means that they will not be eligible for government funded support. In this case the DDA Code of Practice urges Institutions to make reasonable adjustments in terms of equipment, facilities, and auxiliary aids and services.
5. Paragraph 2.6 of the DDA Code of Practice states that "The Act applies to any disabled people (including those overseas) who are enquiring about or applying to a course, and any disabled students (including those overseas) attending, undertaking or enrolling in a course."
6. As the DDA does not define what will constitute a 'reasonable adjustment', it is left to the Code of Practice to outline the factors which should be considered in determining what type of adjustment would be 'reasonable'. These factors include:
 - The financial resources available to the University or College.
 - Grants or loans likely to be available to a disabled student.
 - The extent to which auxiliary aids or services will otherwise be provided to a disabled student.
 - Health and safety requirements.
7. EU students may be entitled to apply for the DLA (Disabled Living Allowance) if they meet the relevant criteria and have right of residence in the UK and have been living in the UK for 3 months. Non-EU students are not entitled to apply for the DSA.
8. EU and Non EU students may be entitled to apply for the DSA (Disabled Students Allowance) if they meet the relevant criteria and count as 'ordinarily resident' in the UK. It is unlikely that most overseas students would qualify as 'ordinarily resident' if the main purpose of them being in the UK is full time education.

This Union Believes:

1. That this situation is currently totally unacceptable – students are currently being disabled and hindered from reaching their full potential.

2. All students should have their access requirements met either by this institution, the UK government, or by their home country.
3. No student should be studying at Arts London without having their access requirements met.

This Union Resolves:

1. To investigate what the University currently will and will not do to support International Disabled Students.
2. To lobby the University to increase support to meet all reasonable access requirements of ALL students.
3. To send the following motion to NUS International Students Conference:

Title: INTERNATIONAL DISABLED STUDENTS

Conference Believes:

1. That under current UK regulations, international students (including EU students) are not having their access requirements met e.g. dyslexia testing, access equipment, enabler support.
2. That under current regulations around the world, some students are not entitled to any access support from their home countries.
3. Due to a combination of UK regulations, and regulations in other countries, many international students are in a situation where they simply will not get their access requirements met whilst studying at Arts London.
4. Many students from overseas will have a 'No Recourse to Public Funds' restriction on their visa to study in the UK and as such this means that they will not be eligible for government funded support. In this case the DDA Code of Practice urges Institutions to make reasonable adjustments in terms of equipment, facilities, and auxiliary aids and services.
5. Paragraph 2.6 of the DDA Code of Practice states that "The Act applies to any disabled people (including those overseas) who are enquiring about or applying to a course, and any disabled students (including those overseas) attending, undertaking or enrolling in a course."
6. EU students may be entitled to apply for the DLA (Disabled Living Allowance) if they meet the relevant criteria and have right of residence in the UK and have been living in the UK for 3 months. Non-EU students are not entitled to apply for the DSA.
7. EU and Non EU students may be entitled to apply for the DSA (Disabled Students Allowance) if they meet the relevant criteria and count as 'ordinarily resident' in the UK. It is unlikely that most overseas students would qualify as 'ordinarily resident' if the main purpose of them being in the UK is full time education.

Conference Further Believes:

1. That it is unacceptable for any student studying anywhere in the world to be disabled by not having access requirements met.
2. That UK Institutions should do much more to support International Disabled Students.

3. That where there is a situation where a student cannot claim the support they need from their home country, they should be eligible for support from the UK or from the institution they are studying at.
4. That where 'no recourse to public funds' is stipulated on an international students' visa, this often disadvantages the student from being able to get their access requirements fully met.

Conference Resolves:

1. To team up with the Disabled Students Campaign to launch a national piece of research into Disabled International Students; our experiences in UK institutions, the reality of regulations and their impact on students' lives, and the impact of discrimination that disabled international students face.
2. To lobby the government to introduce regulations that either force government agencies to meet international disabled students' needs, or that force UK institutions to meet our access needs.

Date Passed March 2009 | Date Expires March 2012