

Information about students who are Deaf/hearing impaired

- People who describe themselves as Deaf (with a capital 'D') are those who share a language and *culture*. To identify as Deaf indicates individual choice and an affinity with the Deaf community. Students who are Deaf are more likely to use New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) – an official language of New Zealand.
- Hearing impairment indicates a person who has a hearing loss – varying from mild to profound. Hearing impaired people are more likely to use hearing aids, personal FM systems and use spoken language to communicate.
- The term deaf (with a little 'd') is the medical definition for someone who has hearing loss.
- There are over 7,000 Deaf people and 400,000 hearing impaired people in New Zealand, and around 26,000 NZSL users.

Impact of impairment:

- Students with profound hearing loss may be able to hear some speech through using hearing aids, hearing loops and FM systems – however a lot of information can be missed.
- Students who lip read will have difficulty with class room discussion. Additionally when the lecturer turns to face the board and continues speaking information, will again, be missed.
- Some NZSL users may find it difficult to come to grips with the formal academic writing style. This is because NZSL has a different grammar and syntax to English. This problem is similar to that faced by many other students who also have English as a second language.
- Deaf and Hearing Impaired students require notetakers as they cannot focus on lip reading/looking at the NZSL Interpreter while also taking notes.

Ways staff can assist:

- Learn how to best work with a NZSL Interpreter. Read the Fact sheet from Student Disability Services, and provide them with as much 'prep' as possible.
- Speak clearly (don't shout) and face the class so that students can lip read.
- During classroom discussions point to the speaker so the student knows which direction to look.
- Arrange the tutorials so that the student can see each person clearly.
- Where videos are used give the student and Student Disability Services advanced warning so as to obtain a transcript.
- Negotiate with the student directly what teaching and learning style suits them best.
- Some students may give you a small FM 'sender' to wear around your neck– this sends speech directly to their hearing aids.

Information has been sourced from:

- Tertiary Students with Disabilities – A Resource Guide for Staff – Available from Student Disability Services.
- Deaf Aotearoa NZ – www.deaf.org.nz
- Crabb, L. (2000) *Crossing the Bridge: an investigation into the needs of deaf and hearing impaired students considering tertiary education*. Thesis (B.Soc.Sci)

The University of Auckland encourages partnerships between Faculties, student services and students, to support students achieve their academic potential.

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUPPORT

Student Disability Services

Room 036 Basement
ClockTower Building
22 Princes Street
Auckland
Ph: 09 373 7599 ext 82936
Fax: 09 308 2354
www.eo.auckland.ac.nz
www.disability.auckland.ac.nz
disabilities@auckland.ac.nz

University Medical Services

City Campus Clinic
Level 3, Student Commons Building
2 Alfred Street
Ph: 373 7599 ext 87681

Grafton Campus Clinic
The "White House"
151 Park Rd
Ph: 373 7599 ext 86962

Tamaki Campus Clinic (Registered Nurse Clinic only)
Building 730.110
Morrin Road
Ph: 373 7599 ext 86677

Epsom Campus Clinic
R Block, Gate 4
60 Epsom Avenue, Epsom
Ph: 373 7599 ext 48526

Student Learning Services

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 88850
sls@auckland.ac.nz

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