

What happens after assessment?

After assessment your assessor will mark your assessments, write a report, and contact your teachers to let them know what you discussed and what exam access arrangements are being considered.

Your teachers (for every subject you are studying) must confirm that your access arrangements are your normal way of working before access arrangements can be approved by the exam board.

What if I want support in exams, but not in lessons?

The exam boards say that exam access arrangements must be your normal way of working. This means if you want support in exams, you **must** be asking for and accepting support in class, e.g. if you never use extra time in class assessments or informal exams, then extra time is not your normal way of working and you are not eligible to have that access arrangement in formal exams.

Your teachers have a responsibility to confirm whether you are accepting support.

What if I want to use technology instead?

We encourage use of technology to help students develop independence. If you want to be more independent and use technology, e.g. a reading pen, then we can organise a loan for you to trial one.

Your assessor will check-in with you around 4-6 weeks later to see how you are finding the technology. You have to be using the technology as your normal way of working in lessons to be allowed to use it in exams.

How do I learn how to use technology?

You can visit the Learning Support Base room on each campus. They will arrange a convenient time to meet with you to show you how to use different types of technology e.g. a reading pen, a computer reader, a Livescribe pen. Ask your assessor for details about who to contact or ask at student services.

Do I have to be assessed every year?

No. You don't have to be assessed every year. Once you have had your access arrangements approved they are valid for 26 months. There are some exceptions, but we will let you know if anything changes.

However, we have to review access arrangements every year and your teachers have to confirm 'normal way of working' every year.

Students who are awarded access arrangements based on mental health illness, will need to provide evidence of need every year.

What if I don't use my exam access arrangements in an exam?

If you do not use your access arrangements on 2 or more occasions we will look at removing some, or all, of your access arrangements.

If we continue to give you access arrangements that you don't use, then we could be giving you an unfair advantage over other students.

I get anxious about exams; can I have a separate room?

Having a room on your own is very unlikely. Only students with significant medical conditions are permitted to sit exams in a room on their own.

We appreciate that some students have anxiety around exams – the college can offer support through resilience sessions and exam workshops. Speak to the staff in the Learning Support Base room on your campus.

I have a medical need/EHCP which says I need access arrangements.

The exam boards are very clear that ANY* arrangement has to be normal way of working.

Medical professionals and professionals who contribute to EHCPs are responsible for providing a formal diagnosis and possible recommendations for support. They are **not** responsible for making decisions about access arrangements.

*Exceptions are made for temporary conditions e.g. if a student breaks their writing arm and needs a scribe.

I like having coloured paper. Why can't I have it?

Derby College offers a high level of support to students; we offer a visual stress screener and provide coloured reading overlays to students.

We will provide exam papers on coloured paper where overlays are not useful for a student and their needs are supported by evidence from a qualified specialist, e.g. optometrist report.

If you have any questions that have not been answered here, please ask your access arrangements assessor, or contact our team at: ea@derby-college.ac.uk