Inclusive, Multi-Modal Learning Environment

Supporting Student’s Learning Needs

**About this project**

Changes in government policy and legislation in recent years have led to an increased need for universities to be more inclusive. This project aims to support Oxford Brookes to achieve this with a particular focus on students with dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties (SpLD). Whilst some individual needs are met by Disabled Students’ Allowances (DSA), the recent reforms to allocate funding to a smaller number of students with the most complex needs, has emphasised universities’ responsibility for providing the majority of reasonable adjustments for students with disabilities.

The project group has carried out research into the inclusive learning and teaching practices which will have a particular benefit for students with dyslexia and specific learning difficulties. Research included seeking the views of Brookes’ students, assessing the approaches taken by other universities and reviewing the literature on the subject. This research is informing the development of resources. During semester 2 some of these resources will be piloted so that they can be used across the university in the academic year 2017/18.

Use of the resources will result in students having access to clearly structured written and online materials, which conform to certain style requirements, prior to lectures and other teaching sessions. This will significantly assist students with SpLD to engage with their studies and, in line with universal design for learning theory and practice, should assist all students. Electronic materials, provided in forms which enable students to amend the formatting, colour and text size (such as Word and PowerPoint), ensure that students are able to adapt materials to suit their learning needs. This in turn should lead to increased engagement from students and higher levels of student satisfaction.

**Request for volunteers**

We need to trial these resources across a range of programmes during semester 2, with a view to university wide roll out for the start of 2017-2018. We are seeking involvement from colleagues from across the university so that we can include appropriate guidance in our materials.

For more information please speak to Fiona Hutchison, Fiona Watkins or Shirley Shipman at the conference today or afterwards on:

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| Fiona Hutchison  Dyslexia/SpLD Team Manager | [fhutchison@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:fhutchison@brookes.ac.uk) | [01865 484650](tel:01865%20484918) |
| Fiona Watkins  Dyslexia/SpLD Adviser | [fwatkins@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:fwatkins@brookes.ac.uk) | [01865 484650](tel:01865%20484918) |
| Shirley Shipman  Principal Lecturer (Student Experience) and Programme Lead, School of Law | [sshipman@brookes.ac.uk](mailto:sshipman@brookes.ac.uk) | [01865 484918](tel:01865%20484918) |