

Information about Hand Function Disability

Some students may not have any obvious impairment, but have difficulties in using one or both hands.

Hand function impairments may be caused by:

- Gradual process injury (OOS).
- Cerebral Palsy or brain injury.
- Accidents, amputations or injuries from burns.
- Paralysis.
- Medical conditions like Rheumatoid arthritis, Raynaud's syndrome, neurological conditions or strokes.
- Problems with dexterity due to injury to fingers/hand/arm.

Some impacts of impairments:

- Permanent hand tremor due to side effect of medications or Parkinson's Disease.
- Muscle cramps, pain, swelling and/or anaesthesia with prolonged use of hands, sometimes extending to arms and shoulders.
- Difficulty with extensive hand writing or typing.
- Fatigue.

Ways staff can assist:

- Avoid making assumptions.
- Give students opportunities to talk with you early in the semester.
- Remember to treat disclosures with care.
- Use inclusive teaching practices e.g. put class notes on CECIL prior to classes so student have less to write, allow notetakers or taping of lectures.
- Arrange laboratory partners or an assistant for tasks or laboratories where two hands are needed.
- Allow time extensions if students need to work more slowly
- Have rest breaks.
- Refer student for assessment of needs during exams.
- Refer and guide student to use The University of Auckland services.

Disclosure is voluntary:

Students may choose not to disclose their disability because they

- Don't want special treatment, or want to see if they can cope alone.
- Fear discrimination.
- Feel embarrassed about asking for help.
- Want to get to know staff first, and then decide whether to disclose.

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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