



“Without the assistance of Student Disability Services I would not have been able to finish my exams on time.”

“I’m a New Zealand born Samoan, and have lived in Auckland all my life. I’ve been visually impaired since childhood, and from the age of three I learned to play the piano by ear. My passions are writing and music.

“I decided to study Media, Film and Television because I was inspired by a church friend who had graduated from the University with that qualification. She used her skills for a project that our youth group was involved in. I began to look at returning to university to upskill and for a career transition into media – particularly into writing.

“Student Disability Services provided me with support that was crucial to my learning at the University of Auckland. I had a note-taker for each course. This ensured that I could focus on hearing the lecturer without having to look at my laptop and type the whole time. I was also given extra time and a computer for examinations. These additional aids were tremendously helpful as I would have struggled to write and focus under pressure due to my visual impairment. I would not have been able to finish the exams on time.

“When my time at the University ended, I job hunted for several months before being offered my first role as a content writer. Having a disability and finding employment was difficult but I’m now doing something I’m passionate about. My time at the University of Auckland helped me realise that you can do anything you put your heart and mind to.”



STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES

Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika



For further information contact:

Equity Office – Te Ara Tautika
Student Disability Services
Basement Level
Room 036, The ClockTower
22 Princes Street, Auckland

Phone: 09 373 7599 ext 82936
Email: disability@auckland.ac.nz
www.disability.auckland.ac.nz

The University of Auckland is committed to being safe, inclusive and equitable. Student Disability Services provides support for students with a wide range of impairments, both visible and invisible, including:

- Blind and low vision
- Deaf and hearing-impaired
- Head injury
- Medical conditions
- Mental health conditions
- Physical or mobility impairments
- Speech impairments
- Specific learning disabilities
- Temporary impairments



If you live with an impairment that impacts your studies, or if you had special conditions for exams at school, contact us for a confidential chat about how we may be able to help you succeed at the University. Student Disability Services offers a broad range of services, including:

- Special conditions for tests and exams
- Note-taking, including support for Deaf students
- Learning disability referrals
- Resources, including designated study rooms, temporary mobility scooters and accessible parking
- Careers and scholarship advice, including appointments with a Workbridge employment consultant (see below for more information on Workbridge)
- Mental health support*

**Our Mental Health Advisers provide ongoing support for students living with a diagnosed mental health condition. They work with students throughout their studies on a regular or intermittent basis to assess any challenges and difficulties that are affecting their academic progress.*

Workbridge at the University

Workbridge is a specialised employment service focused on supporting people with all types of disability, injury or illness. A Workbridge employment consultant is available weekly on the City Campus to meet students with the aim of connecting them with prospective employers and helping them to fulfil their career goals and aspirations.

www.auckland.ac.nz/workbridge



“Student Disability Services has made a huge, positive difference to my time at University.”

“My name is Joyce. I’m currently in my last year studying Biology and Psychology as a double major in a Bachelor of Sciences. I hope to become a secondary teacher one day and apply for the postgraduate education diploma.

“Prior to my diagnosis of Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), I struggled tremendously with understanding what I was reading or just not being distracted by my own thoughts in any situation I was in. I had tasks left unfinished, inconsistency in my note-taking, could not focus under exam conditions with so many people in a room – just to name a few of my issues.

“After I was diagnosed with ADD, Student Disability Services (SDS) helped me to devise study plans and strategies with the help of technology such as apps to maintain focus. They also helped me overcome the struggles of taking an exam with many students by organising a separate room with fewer people so that I would not be distracted by my environment.

“As I reflect on my progress before and after going to SDS, I notice a huge difference in not only the results but also my attitude towards learning and my degree.

“SDS helped me find effective and efficient ways to go about my study, I realised that despite my ADD, I too, can achieve just as high as other students and that it is possible to pursue the career I had hoped for.”