

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 a 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 a 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 information sheet from 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 Disability Services advanced warning so as to obtain a transcript.
- Negotiate with the student directly with 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 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)

CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SUPPORT

Disability Services

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Fax: +64 9 308 2354

www.eo.auckland.ac.nz

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disabilities@auckland.ac.nz

University Medical Services

City Campus Clinic

Level 3, Student Commons Building

2 Alfred Street

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 87681

Grafton Campus Clinic

The "White House"

151 Park Rd

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86962

Tamaki Campus Clinic (Registered Nurse Clinic only)

Building 730.110

Morrin Road

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 86677

Epsom Campus Clinic

R Block, Gate 4

60 Epsom Avenue, Epsom

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 48526

Student Learning Centre

Ph: +64 9 373 7599 ext 88850

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