

Student Support Team Assistive Technology Strategic Plan



2013-2014 Onwards

Assessment of Learners

A system has now been put in place to assess the needs of learners in terms of assistive technology and equipment.

The assessment is carried out by a Student Support Manager. The outcome is reviewed 3 times in the academic year to identify whether the equipment or software is being used effectively, and whether the student needs any further support.

Expansion of Equipment

In order to gradually expand and update the equipment available for learners, the following is being suggested for the Student Support business plan:

Equipment	2013-2014 (Current Yr)	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
iPads	Request for 6 initially (1 per site for each team: Sensory, SpLD and LLDD)	Increase by another 6 to allow 2 per team per site Encourage BYOD initiative	Continue BYOD initiative	Continue BYOD initiative
Livescribe Pens	Request for 8 and 8 pads initially (4 learners on waiting list and 2 spare per site)	Increase by another 8 to allow for initial learners returning, and 8 new learners wishing to borrow	Continue to expand based on learner demand	Continue to expand based on learner demand

Monitoring of Equipment

All current and new equipment is being catalogues on the LRC Autolib system. This allows:

- Learners to borrow kit in the same way they would borrow a book
- Easy request to return equipment for updating/in-year checks
- Overdue reports/letters if equipment is not returned on time
- Maintenance stock levels and recognition of trends

Blended Learning Team

This will be set up in 2013-2014 and will consist of representatives from:

- Student Support
- IT Department
- E-Learning Department
- LRC

The aim will be to develop a consistent and effective approach to overcoming difficulties for learners, and facilitating the use of assistive technology and software in the curriculum. The aim is to have one single approach to avoid duplication and conflict and to ensure compatibility when implementing new ideas.

Use of Equipment/Software

The following are ideas which will be investigated/implemented over the next 3 years:

- Online video glossary of technical terms in BSL
- iPads in all supported sessions to allow taking photo/video evidence for learners
- Evernote/Google Drive sharing of in class electronic notes
- Digi-memo pads being used to take manual notes (this may be necessary in maths classes etc.)
- Widening of Bring Your Own Device campaign so learners can share online resources in class