# Sample text about disability support for college prospectuses/admissions communications

## Declaring a Disability or Specific Learning Difficulty

We welcome applications from students with disabilities, including dyslexia, dyspraxia, and other Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs). Our admissions decisions are based on academic merit alone and our Disability Advisory Service currently has over 4,000 students registered. Over 1,000 of these students have declared a specific learning difficulty (SpLD).

Whether your disability is seen or unseen we can provide the support you need at all stages of the application process and for the duration of your studies at Oxford. Whatever your particular circumstances, the earlier we know about your individual requirements, then the sooner we can begin to meet them. We are committed to making sure that all our students can benefit from the great opportunities at Oxford so please do tell us about any disability, seen or unseen. Please be assured that admissions decisions are made on academic grounds alone. By telling us now, you will help us put in place any agreed support early and to make reasonable adjustments to facilitate your access to your course and our University. It will also mean that we can provide appropriate arrangements during the admissions process, so for any test or interview. While you do not need to tell us, we strongly recommend you do so in order to give us time to prepare and arrange suitable support.

From the Undergraduate Admissions Handbook: standard paragraphs

## U2 Disability Support (see also A24)

We have a [Disability Advisory Service](http://www.ox.ac.uk/students/shw/das) whose role it is to provide information and guidance so that disability related study and work needs can be met by colleges, halls, University departments and faculties.

The University is committed to the health and welfare of all its students and to ensuring that they are able to make the most of their time at Oxford. Any additional support will be tailored to individual need but please read the above website for more information about the sort of support we are likely to be able to offer. If you have any questions, our colleagues in DAS will be happy to help. Their email is [disability@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:disability@admin.ox.ac.uk) and the phone is + 44 (0)1865 280459.

We would also advise you to read [ox.ac.uk/swd](http://www.ox.ac.uk/swd) for more information about applying to Oxford with a disability or specific learning difficulty.

## A24 Applying with a disability or SpLD

Our [Disability Advisory Service](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability?wssl=1) provides support from the point you are considering an application right up until graduation, and are always delighted to hear from potential candidates. Have a look at the students with disabilities videos at [ox.ac.uk/disabilityvideos](http://ox.ac.uk/disabilityvideos) to hear from current Oxford students; or see the [dyslexia unbound video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmQhZ8oao_I), a 15-minute film made by Oxford tutors for students with SpLDs.

You might think that mentioning your disability or specific learning difficulty will affect your application: this is absolutely not the case! When making our admissions decisions, we are only interested in academic merit, and want to give you every opportunity to demonstrate your ability. Please tell us about any disability on your UCAS form, and perhaps ask your referee to mention it too, and contact us (via the college you are applying to, or via the Disability Advisory Service) so that we have time to put in place any reasonable adjustments or respond to any requirements during the admissions process. With appropriate supporting evidence (e.g. an educational psychologist's or specialist tutor’s diagnostic assessment report or a medical letter), arrangements such as extra time, rest breaks, and word-processing can be considered.

Do visit the [Disability pages](https://www.ox.ac.uk/students/welfare/disability?wssl=1) to read lots more about the kind of support we offer to our students, and the [Bodleian Libraries’ Accessible Resources Unit](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/using/disability) for information on study resources.