

The college welcomes students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome

Abingdon & Witney College is committed to inclusive learning. The aim of our support service is to cater for the individual needs of students. If you have any special requirements to enable you to access education or other provision at the college, please contact our Student Advisor Team on 01235 21 6440.

What help is available?

A specialist team, called the Further Education Autism Specialist Team (FEAST) from the Oxfordshire County Council Service for Autism, is available at the college to ensure that students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome succeed socially and in their course of study.

We know that visiting college for the first time can be a source of anxiety for many students with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome so you will be welcomed by one of our Learner Support Advisors and a member of FEAST. These members of staff will be able to answer your questions regarding the course you would like to do and what support is available.

Where can I find information and advice about the college opportunities available to me?

Our college prospectuses along with the website will provide information about our available courses. For more information visit: www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/infocentre/autismsupport

Our Learning Centre has a full version of the college's Disability Equality Scheme for more information.

What type of support does FEAST provide?

FEAST offer targeted support in classes to help you overcome your particular difficulty, for example, organising work and helping to deal with sensory or anxiety/emotional issues. Along with this, FEAST will help with coursework and assignments.

On the college site we have what is called a "Green Room" equipped with computers for you to work. This is a quiet social space for use exclusively by students with AS and ASD throughout the day and is a lovely place for students to chill.

FEAST can offer 1:1 study support and mentoring sessions alongside any other support you are already getting.

FEAST also provide autism-awareness training and support and guidance for college staff.

FEAST and the college monitor your progress, celebrate your successes and assist with any difficulties you might have, as well as liaising regularly with your tutors.

How do I access support?

You'll be able to access the support on offer if you have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), or you have a diagnosis of ASD/are seeking one.

When filling out an application form for a college course, you need to tick the "yes" box under "physical medical conditions or sensory impairment". This will then alert FEAST and the college staff who will get in touch with you. Support will depend on your level of need and will be assessed against our Service's criteria for involvement.

FEAST and college support staff will discuss with you what sort of support you need and how much.

What help can I get with exams and assessments?

Arrangements may be made for extra time, additional breaks, separate rooms, a scribe or use of specialist equipment if this is appropriate for you and if we can show supporting evidence of need.

We welcome feedback

If you have already experienced our Autism Support we would really appreciate it if you let us know if you were happy with the support provided as we are always looking for areas to improve our offer.

Who can I speak to about support?

Caroline Stilwell
Student Advisor
supportforlearning@abingdon-witney.ac.uk
01235 21 6440

Lori Granville
FEAST Co-ordinator
supportforlearning@abingdon-witney.ac.uk

"The college is committed to safeguarding by recognising risk, preventing harm and working in partnership to protect and support students and staff. Equality and Diversity are promoted and encouraged. Visit www.abingdon-witney.ac.uk/infocentre/equality-and-diversity for more information."

Information disclosed to the college will automatically be passed on to the Learner Support Advisor so the needs of students with disabilities can be met. The college recognises the student's right to request that the existence of his/her disability will be kept confidential. The college will preserve confidentiality about the disability wherever possible. The boundaries of confidentiality will be discussed with each individual.