



香港大學  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



cedars  
Centre of Development and Resources for Students  
學生發展及資源中心

# SUPPORTING TERTIARY STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT



**SEN**  
SUPPORT

# SUPPORTING TERTIARY STUDENTS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENT



## What is HI?

Hearing impairment (HI), deaf or hard of hearing refers to reduced abilities in perceiving sounds. The impairment can affect only one ear or both. The degree of hearing loss can be classified into five levels: mild, moderate, moderately-severe, severe and profound. Depending on the severity of impairment, students may have difficulties in the following areas:



Listening to all or certain sounds like distant sounds, whispering, shouting or other loud noises



Following rapid conversations



Verbal expression



Articulation



Responding to environmental sound and external stimulation

The use of hearing aids, cochlear implants, Frequency Modulated (FM) systems, lip reading and/ or sign language interpretation may be needed for speech perception.

# What support do students with HI need in university life?

Given the above difficulties, reasonable accommodations and support may enhance their learning and adaptation in different aspects of university life, examples of which include:



## LEARNING

- ▶ Allow note-takers to jot notes during classes
- ▶ Provide course materials and notes to the student in advance
- ▶ Allow the student to sit in the front row in classes or in circles during group discussions
- ▶ Provide subtitles for audio-visual materials (e.g. videos)



## ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Consider alternative mode of assessment for class participation, oral and listening assessments
- ▶ Separate examination venue preferably in quieter and smaller rooms
- ▶ Allow the student to sit with the better-ear facing the speakers
- ▶ Provide written announcements



## COMMUNICATION

- ▶ Get the student's attention before speaking
- ▶ Talk to the student face to face
- ▶ Speak clearly, naturally and not too slowly
- ▶ Repeat and clarify main points when necessary
- ▶ Present important information in written format
- ▶ Ask if the student prefers to communicate through emails, phone text messages or by calls
- ▶ Alert the student with flashlight alarms or appropriate body gestures (e.g. petting on shoulders) in case of emergencies



# How can I interact with students with HI?

## TIPS FOR TEACHERS/TUTORS



Make use of visual aids and written supplements whenever possible



Use microphone and pause from time to time when speaking in classes



Avoid turning your back to the student or standing in front of a light source when speaking

## TIPS FOR PEERS



Offer help to take or share notes in classes



Highlight discussion topics in group meetings



Help directing the student's attention by using appropriate body gestures



## Your Support Makes a Difference



*Thanks for the help from the note-takers.  
It helps a lot in marking something that I  
have missed. They are my ears :)  
Million thanks!*

**Wong On Ying,  
Final year student**



## Volunteer with Us

All HKU students can contribute to building an inclusive campus. Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ Offering academic support (e.g. note-taking, study skills coaching)
- ▶ Providing social skills coaching
- ▶ Organizing activities to promote inclusion and diversity
- ▶ Working with people in recovery of mental illness
- ▶ and many more!

Get in touch with us to find out more.



## Available Support for Students with HI

### **CEDARS Counselling and Person Enrichment (CoPE) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support**

We are committed to supporting students with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN) in overcoming barriers and achieving successful university education. The support provided is meant to “level the playing field” without undermining academic core requirements of a course.

The listed suggestions are not exhaustive and the support needed by students varies individually. Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with us for needs assessment and advice.

For enquiries, please contact us at:

- 📍 Room 123, 1/F, Main Building
- ☎ (852) 3910 3200
- ✉ cedars-SEN@hku.hk
- 🌐 <http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen>

For community resources available for students with SEN, please visit <http://wp2.cedars.hku.hk/sen-resources/>  
To learn more about other types of SEN, please visit [www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen-leaflets](http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen-leaflets)