



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 DYSLEXIA



**SEN**  
SUPPORT

# SUPPORTING TERTIARY STUDENTS WITH DYSLEXIA



## What is Dyslexia?

Dyslexia is a type of Specific Learning Difficulties which affects individuals' learning and academic skills. Students with Dyslexia encounter difficulties in reading and writing while having at least average intellectual ability. They may have difficulties in:

### READING AND WRITING

- ▶ Word recognition
- ▶ Reading fluency and accuracy
- ▶ Reading comprehension
- ▶ Understanding sentences with complex structure
- ▶ Spelling and grammar
- ▶ Using of punctuation

### OTHER AREAS

- ▶ Note-taking
- ▶ Information processing
- ▶ Concentration

# What support do students with Dyslexia 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

- ▶ Provide course materials and notes to the student in electronic format in advance (e.g. e-book)
- ▶ Allow recording of lectures to assist understanding and later review
- ▶ Provide assistance in setting priority to readings
- ▶ Acquire learning strategies (e.g. identify key words in text, use mind maps for writing, etc.)



## ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Extended time for assessments
- ▶ Allow the use of assistive devices in assessments (e.g. computer, text reader)
- ▶ Special consideration for student's handwriting and error in writing (e.g. spelling and grammar)
- ▶ Special question paper and/or answer sheet (e.g. with wider line spacing)
- ▶ Allow extra time to complete assignments



## SELF-MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Use visual reminders (e.g. stickers, flow charts, etc.) to keep track of work



# How can I interact with students with Dyslexia?

## TIPS FOR TEACHERS/TUTORS



Elaborate written instructions verbally to aid student's understanding



Elaborate concepts with diagrams/ images



Provide lecture notes / handouts in point-form

## TIPS FOR PEERS



Offer help to take or share notes in classes



Remind the student on important dates (e.g. deadlines of assignments)



Share reading and writing tips with the student (e.g. capturing main ideas in readings, organization of essay, etc.)



## Your Support Makes a Difference



*Despite limited resources, Counselling and Person Enrichment (CoPE) SEN Support still actively try to ascertain useful tools and software to assist (my) learning (as an) SEN student. Peer volunteers also teach me study skills and problem solving skills, as well as make me feel less isolated and helpless.*

**Jeffrey,  
Year 3 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 DYSLEXIA

### **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)