

Reasonable Adjustment Policy

Scope

This policy is applicable to Kaplan Higher Education Pty Ltd, trading as Murdoch Institute of Technology (“the School”).

Purpose

This policy establishes the process for managing requests for reasonable adjustment from students with disabilities.

Overview

The School is committed to adhering to the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>) and the Disability Standards for Education 2005 (<https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2005L00767/Download>) across its academic entities to prevent discrimination of any form against a student on the basis of their disability. As a result, the School has strategies in place to ensure that students with disabilities are reasonably accommodated within their learning environment to ensure equal opportunity and access to education.

Reasonable Adjustment

Reasonable adjustment is an adjustment made for students with a disability, condition or special learning need. Generally, an application for reasonable adjustment is made at the time of a student’s enrolment, however, a student can make an application at any time during their enrolment. Reasonable adjustments are made to ensure that students are not presented with artificial barriers to learning or demonstrating learning achievement in their studies. Reasonable adjustment may include and is not limited to:

- the use or loan of adaptive/assistive technology or equipment for use by people with a disability or illness to enable them to undertake their study/assessment in a fair and equitable manner. (e.g. seating, PC);
- alternative methods of assessment (e.g. verbal assessment);
- individual conditions of assessment (e.g. seating arrangements, additional 10 minutes per hour, toilet/rest/exercise breaks, bite sized food/drink);
- accessible learning formats (e.g. large print materials, coloured exam paper);
- provision of a scribe;
- referral to additional services.

Process for Applying for Reasonable Adjustment

The School has appointed Disability Liaison Officers (DLOs) to manage any queries in relation to students with disabilities. DLO’s are the main point of contact for students with disabilities and their role includes but is not limited to:

- managing enquiries and issues related to the educational experience of students with disabilities at the School;
- providing basic disability support and ensuring students with disabilities are treated with appropriate etiquette;
- assisting other School staff with strategies for responding to students with disabilities requests;

- ensuring appropriate disclosure, confidentiality and privacy is maintained in the triaging of requests for learning assistance or reasonable adjustments;
- assisting students with disabilities in getting appropriate, reasonable adjustments for study materials, assessment tasks and environmental improvements, as relevant; and
- outlining useful assistive technologies that may be used in assisting students with disabilities.

Current or prospective students who wish to apply for reasonable adjustment should follow the steps outlined below:

1. Student contacts the School and asks to speak with Disability Liaison Officer (DLO). In some cases, the DLO may also be a student adviser.
2. Following an initial conversation, the student submits an Application for Reasonable Adjustment to the DLO (Application to be found at following link: <https://www.murdochinstitute.wa.edu.au/policies/>). The DLO will review the application and approve or decline the application.
3. The student will be informed of the outcome within 5 working days of the application being received.
4. Where appropriate and in accordance with confidentiality principles, the DLO may communicate a student's specific needs in relation to learning and assessment to relevant academics or administrative staff for assessment or support.
5. A meeting may be set up with the student and the DLO to discuss the application and formalise a personal learning plan. (Students should advise the DLO if their situation changes during their studies).
6. The DLO will review the learning plan with the student at least annually, or earlier if circumstances change. Where a student has a permanent disability that will not change, the learning plan will be reviewed where changes to arrangements are required.
7. Students who are dissatisfied with the outcome of a reasonable adjustment application may seek recourse in accordance with the [Complaints and Appeals Policy](#).

Special Consideration

On occasion due to unanticipated events during the study period (e.g. illness, bereavement, natural disasters, personal trauma) students may be prevented from completing an assessment task by the due date, or attending an exam, or completing the assessment to the best of their ability.

Students affected by such event can apply for special consideration for assessments they believe are affected by any of the above circumstances. Further information about the Special Consideration process is available in the [Assessment Policy](#). Alternatively, students who wish to apply for special consideration, or are uncertain about their eligibility, should contact their student adviser for further information.

Ongoing strategies and measures

To ensure students and staff have appropriate access to learning and facilities, the School implements a range of strategies and measures. These include:

1. The appointment and training of Disability Liaison Officers (DLO) at each campus to work with current and prospective students with disabilities to ensure assistance and reasonable adjustments and accommodations are made.
2. An annual review of services provided to students and staff with disabilities.
3. An annual review of learning facilities (including physical and non-physical learning environments) to ensure reasonable accommodation for students with disabilities to education.

4. Promoting awareness of disability amongst teaching staff and student administrative staff via a range of educational material.

Relevant Legislation

Disability Discrimination Act 1992 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2018C00125>

Disability Standards for Education 2005 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/F2005L00767/Download>

Privacy Act 1988 <https://www.legislation.gov.au/Details/C2014C00076>

Related policies

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following related School policies:

- Access and Equity Policy
- Assessment Policy
- Complaints and Appeals Policy
- Privacy Policy

Accountable Officers

The accountable officers for the implementation and relevant training of this policy are listed below.

Policy Category	Academic			
Responsible Officer	Vice President, Academic			
Implementation Officer	Student Services Manager and College Director			
Review Date	March 2020			
Approved by				
Vice President, Academic on behalf of KHE Academic Board				
Change and Version Control				
Version	Authored by	Brief Description of the changes	Date Approved:	Effective Date:
1.0	Quality & Standards Group	Unpacking of one document into existing document	01.01.2014	01.01.2014
1.1	Quality & Standards Group	Format and wording changes to align across all businesses	22.05.2015	15.06.2015
1.2	Quality & Standards Group	Policy nomenclature change from “Students with Disabilities Policy,” amendment made to incorrect email delivery address.	03.12.2015	17.12.2015
1.3	Academic Quality and Governance Team	Policy reviewed for currency as per policy review cycle. Changes include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inclusion of information regarding the role of a Disability Liaison Officer. • Introduction of Implementation Officer. 	02.03.2017	16.03.2017
1.4	Kaplan Australia Quality, Regulations and Standards Team	Reviewed policy and updated links to disability legislation websites. Added section on “Relevant Legislation”. Updated list of “Related Policies”. Reviewed and updated Appendix 1 – removed reference to all Kaplan colleges, only used for MIT.	20.02.2019	21.02.2019

		Removed Appendix 1 – Application for Reasonable Adjustment – to be used as “form”.		
--	--	--	--	--