

What is meant by 'dyslexia and neurodiversity'?

The Disability and Well-being Service at the London School of Economics uses the name Neurodiversity to reflect an ethos of valuing different, but equal, thinking. We use the term to encompass a spectrum of conditions: dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, 'learning disabilities' (USA), AD(H)D, Asperger and Meares-Irlen Syndrome.

- 'Dyslexia' tends to be used when an individual's difficulties cluster around reading, writing, taking notes in lectures, doing timed assessment.
- 'Dyspraxia' tends to be used when an individual's difficulties cluster around time management, visuo-spatial orientation, organisation and prioritisation of tasks and paperwork.
- 'Dyscalculia' tends to be used when an individual's difficulties cluster around numeracy.
- 'Dysgraphia' tends to refer to severe difficulties with handwriting.
- 'Learning Disabilities' is used in the USA and tends to refer to dyslexia and dyspraxia.
- 'AD(H)D' stands for Attention Deficit (Hyperactivity) Disorder and tends to refer to individuals whose difficulties cluster around concentration and impulsive behaviour.
- 'Meares-Irlen Syndrome' tends to refer to individuals who experience visual stress when reading and writing.

How can staff help?

- Anticipate that about 4 in 100 students will have some form of neurodiverse condition
- Bear in mind the need to make your documentation, both paper-based and online, accessible
- Refer to the student's Individual Student Support Agreement (ISSA) for his/her requirements and adjustments needed
- If in doubt, ask the student directly (**in private!**) what works for them
- Refer to [Key points about dyslexia for busy lecturers](#) from BrainHE