

How does a neurodiverse condition affect a student's coursework?

The ability to 'see the bigger picture' and make connections between ideas is often a strength which is reflected in contributions in class and course work. However, inconsistencies in written expression (possibly in syntax, punctuation, spelling and presentation) can be present in word-processed coursework and PowerPoint slides, despite a student's best efforts at proof-reading and the use of assistive software, such as a screen reader.

Typical errors can include:

- Incorrect words which are not picked up by the spell checker eg *causal* and *casual*, *statue* and *statute*
- Signposting and linking of ideas can be weak
- Structure of argument can be unclear
- Some word-finding difficulties

How can staff help?

- Be sensitive towards individuals and their work, as many dyslexic and neurodiverse students will have experienced negative reactions to their writing during their educational lives
- Highlight what a student has done well and indicate why it is good
- Give formative feedback which shows the student how he/she can improve
- Discuss with the student the type of errors he/she would like you to identify
- Select poorly phrased/expressed ideas and model improvements
- Write your comments legibly or word process them
- Explain your comments clearly