

Students experiencing disability - 2009

The Faculty of Veterinary Science understands that the existence of a health condition or impairment may not in itself disable people. The faculty understands that the environment a student is required to operate within can have a disabling impact and can limit opportunities for successful and independent participation. The Faculty of Veterinary Science seeks to ensure that the physical environment including teaching and assessment methods and the broader cultural environment of the faculty respects individual differences. The Faculty of Veterinary Science has developed a Working Group that meets at least annually to explore how disability issues can be integrated into developments and initiatives the faculty is planning.

Expectations for faculty

The Faculty of Veterinary Science values the participation of students experiencing disability in the diverse programs it offers.

The faculty aims to provide:

- A sensitive and supportive environment where confidentiality is respected and disclosure encouraged.
- Staff who are expert in their field of study but understand their role as educators and who therefore participate in staff development within and external to the University community on matters affecting the engagement and participation of all students.
- Adjustments that limit the disabling impact of environment for students with a health condition or impairment. The faculty seeks to identify adjustments that enhance the participation and dignity of students whilst acknowledging that it will uphold academic requirements to ensure that those on whom it confers an award can present themselves as having the appropriate knowledge, experience and skills implicit in the holding of that particular award.
- Genuine, respectful consultation with the student and if appropriate, the Disability Liaison Unit to determine reasonable adjustments. An adjustment is deemed to be reasonable if it:
 - Enhances student participation, optimises use of services and facilities and facilitates admission and enrolment.
 - Is not excessive for the circumstances of the University.
 - Does not prevent the fulfilment of academic requirements.
- Clear and accessible information about the types of adjustments that might be reasonable. Refer to the course co-ordinator for further information.

Expectations for students

In accepting a place into the programs offered by the Faculty of Veterinary Science, students are assumed to be cognisant with the inherent requirements of their course and to have given due consideration as to how they can reasonably participate in all the required elements of the course.

Additionally, students are encouraged to:

- Make relevant staff aware of their academic needs so that reasonable adjustments can be identified and implemented in a timely manner. This can be done independently or with support from the Disability Liaison Unit.
- Make contact with the Disability Liaison Unit (DLU) to explore the University supports available to students with health conditions or impairments and the timelines required to implement supports (such as Alternative Examination Arrangements). Information regarding the DLU can be found at www.services.unimelb.edu.au/disability
- Provide the faculty, or the DLU, with appropriate evidence and information about the nature of their health condition or impairment through documentation from a relevant health professional. Where the impact of the disability fluctuates significantly, students may be required to provide additional documentation.