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## Guidelines for Registered Medical/Health Practitioners

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Dear Doctor/Health Professional,

Your patient is enrolled at the University of New England and has indicated that they have a medical condition of disability. In order to provide reasonable accommodations during their study, the student has been asked to provide the University with information from their treating medical practitioner or specialist confirming their disability or special needs and supporting appropriate study accommodations. Specifically, the University requires your comments on:

- The impact the student's disability has on their ability to undertake study;
- What you believe would constitute reasonable accommodations given the extent of their disability;
- Any limitations which you believe the student's disability may place on them in respect to how large a study load they can manage; and
- Whether there is likely to be any change in their support needs in the future.

We understand that each student has their own specific needs and in order to assist you in providing relevant support, a number of examples are given on page 2 demonstrating the kind of information provided by doctors.

For your information the University's expectations of a student without a disability are:

**Full time workload:** 24 credit points per semester (or 48 credit points for a full year) for an undergraduate program. Most units have a 6 credit point's value, although in some cases they have 12 credit points value. Some units require the student to undertake practical session (e.g. nursing, education).

**Assignments:** to be completed by due date, with extensions only available in unexpected circumstances (e.g. death in the family, significant unexpected illness, etc). Extensions are not granted because of work and/or other study commitments.

**Exams:** are undertaken in an authorised exam centre (sometimes a moderate distance from a student's home) under the supervision of exam attendants/supervisors and are strictly limited to two hours per exam.

It would be appreciated if you could provide your comments on this student bearing in mind the above information. If you are unsure of your suitability to provide supporting comments or need additional information on types of accommodations, please don't hesitate to contact this office.

Yours sincerely,

**Disability Adviser.**

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### Examples of Information provided by doctors in support of student requests for study accommodations:

**Example 1:**

**Diagnosis:** Scotopic sensitivity.

**Impact:** Student has difficulty with glare from white paper. Small print is harder to read than larger print.

**Possible Accommodations:** Examination papers to be in Blue paper enlarged to A3 size.

**Limitations:** None.

**Example 2:**

**Diagnosis:** Hearing loss.

**Impact:** Student has difficulty understanding verbal instructions where there is a high level of background noise.

**Possible Accommodations** Written instructions or one-on-one verbal instructions in tutorial or practical situations. Video material to have captions.

**Limitations:** Student may have difficulty in large group work.

**Example 3:**

**Diagnosis:** Chronic fatigue syndrome.

**Impact:** Tiredness, unable to concentrate for long periods of time.

**Possible Accommodations:** In exam situations, student may need to rest for 10 minutes after each hour of exam.

**Limitations:** Fatigue may make it difficult for student to undertake a full study load. I recommend they undertake a maximum of 2 units per semester.

**Example 4:**

**Diagnosis:** Diabetes.

**Impact:** Student needs to monitor their glucose levels.

**Possible Accommodations:** May need to take food into exams or on field trips.

**Limitations:** None.