



The Student Experience at College

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The student experience at College

- Over 10,000 applications for College mainstream courses including Highers, NQs, HNC/Ds from February to August 2010
- About 1,000 applicants disclosing a disability
- About 35 applicants disclosing Aspergers
- All of these students supported by small team of Student Support and Guidance lecturers
- This does not include Supported Education courses

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Application stage:

- Application is checked
- Letter is sent from Student Support
- Student may also be contacted by phone
- If appropriate an initial appointment is set up
- Potential student may bring parent/support worker
- Important to get student on the right course
- Discuss chosen course and upcoming interview

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Pre Interview stage:

- Student Support may make contact with interviewing lecturer, previous College/school, check reports if available
- Arrange to be present at interview if appropriate
- Discuss any particular needs/reasonable adjustments

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Interview

- Student Support can be present at the interview if student wishes
- May just be there for support
- May ask questions on student's behalf
- May clarify interviewer's questions
- Student may prefer to attend interview alone

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Starting College:

- Once on course student is encouraged to make contact with Student Support
- Student Support lecturer now Mentor
- Arrange regular meetings for ongoing support
- Agree guidelines for learning and teaching
- Contact Tutor with agreed guidelines for how best to support student in class
- Tutor passes this information to subject lecturers

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Ongoing support:

- One to one mentoring, regular meetings
- Liaise with tutor, lecturers, study skills lecturers, support worker, parents, No6 staff etc.
- Special assessment arrangements – reader, scribe, separate room, extra time, use of PC if appropriate
- Help with Disabled Students' Allowance application if SAAS funded and appropriate
- Introduction to Sanctuary and Sensory Garden
- Invitation to Aspergers Lunch Club
- Matching up with a Buddy

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Case study 1

- Student A with mental health difficulties
- Newly diagnosed with Aspergers but disputed diagnosis
- Regular support meetings with student
- Regular meetings with lecturers
- Encouraged student to go on trip
- Supported lecturers with their concerns
- Encouraged student to apply for DSA
- Got equipment and organisational support

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Case study 2

- Student came to Student Support with printout from Internet
- Thought he had Aspergers
- Supported to go to GP on two occasions
- Eventually saw psychiatrist and got diagnosis
- In his second year of study
- Has regular support
- Attends Lunch Club and Study Skills sessions

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Case study 3

- Student came to Student Support with recent diagnosis of Aspergers
- In contact with No6
- Had regular support from Mentor
- Got involved in SeeMe anti stigma project giving training sessions to staff
- Set up Lunch Club
- Awards

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