

Students with mobility impairment or mobility issues

This includes people with difficulties relating to balance, co-ordination, stamina; as well as those who use a wheelchair, people suffering from cerebral palsy or ME, and people using guide or hearing dogs.

Such students may have particular difficulties with where and when meetings and fieldwork are conducted, as well as the duration:

- locations may be inaccessible (e.g. too many steps) or uncomfortable (e.g. chairs with inadequate support) or too far from nearest parking space or public transport;
- specific times of day in relation to levels of pain and pain management may affect the scheduling of meetings and fieldwork;
- long meetings may induce pain, exhaustion or reduce concentration levels.

Solutions could include:

- asking students about any particular issues around timing and venues;
- paying particular attention to location so that these are accessible (e.g. somewhere where there are no steps), comfortable (e.g. providing a chair which gives adequate support), within easy reach of parking/ transport needs;
- reorganising the built environment if possible and necessary (e.g. widening aisles in classrooms, labs, libraries);
- scheduling meetings and fieldwork so that unsuitable times are avoided;
- planning what can be covered in the time allotted and practising good time keeping;
- building breaks into necessary but long meetings/ activities;
- ensuring detailed forward planning for the support required for fieldwork, conferences etc;
- gaining the support of non-disabled members of the team to introduce the student to other team members and departmental or social gatherings. |