

# Hearing Impairment

## Beginning study

Depending on the degree of your hearing impairment, some aspects of study may be challenging for you. It is important to consider giving staff clear information about your hearing so staff are in the best position to work with you on achieving your goals.

You, the academic staff in your programme and Disability Services staff need to have a good understanding of factors such as:

- to what extent you may have difficulty hearing class content in situations such as lectures, class discussions, group work and the presentation of audio or video content,
- your use of speech reading as part of your hearing strategy,
- whether your need to watch people while they speak or to focus hard on listening reduces your capacity to take notes in class,
- your use of hearing aids or FM technology and what arrangements you require to maximise their effectiveness,
- your ability to sustain concentration if you are straining to process what you hear,
- your need for breaks to reduce fatigue,
- any course related situations which may raise safety issues for you or others you are working with.

If you require adaptive equipment such as a hearing aid or FM hearing assistance device, in the first instance, it is your responsibility to make these arrangements before your programme of study begins. However, if there are particular difficulties with accessing this equipment, please talk with Disability Services staff for further information.

## Alternative formats for course materials

If you require audio content in alternative formats (e.g. captioned videos or transcribed audio content), please register with Disability Services at Ara as soon as possible. It will take some weeks to prepare materials in your preferred format. If you delay in making your needs known, then course materials may not be available when you require them.

Disability Services can also assist you to pass on information about your hearing related needs to the academic staff teaching your courses.

## Suggestions for successful learning and study

### Study Strategies

- Before your classes start, check the layout of your classrooms and work out the best seating arrangement to meet your needs with regard to listening and, if relevant, speech reading. Once classes start, arrive at class early to claim your preferred seat.
- Disability Services can assist you with providing tutors with information such as:
  - the tutor speaking only when facing the class,
  - attending to any lighting or glare issues which make it difficult for you to view the tutor's face,
  - the impact of background noise on your hearing,
  - repeating another student's question before providing the answer to the question,
  - the arrangement of seating in the room to maximise listening opportunities
  - requesting speakers to speak one at a time during class discussions,
  - respecting your seating preferences.
- Read appropriate material (including powerpoint slide handouts on Moodle) before class so that you have a better chance of understanding what is said in class. Talk with your tutor or Disability Services if you have difficulty getting access to class notes before the class.
- If you have difficulty with understanding everything that is said in class or with keeping up with taking notes; bring your hearing assessment documentation and register with Disability Services to discuss notetaking support.
- Make an appointment at Learning Services to get help with skills such as planning and writing your assignment, essay and report writing and notetaking skills.

### Accessing course material

- Give Disability Services early notice to make sure you have audio course materials in your preferred format.
- If you have difficulty listening to video or audio content played during class, speak with Disability Services or your tutor about the possibility of accessing this content outside class so you can listen to it with ear phones or captions etc.

### Contact Disability Services:

Phone: 940 8089

email: [disability@ara.ac.nz](mailto:disability@ara.ac.nz)

### ***For more information:***

National Foundation for the Deaf: <https://www.nfd.org.nz/>

Study strategies:

[http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/resources/towards\\_success/deaf\\_and\\_hard\\_of\\_hearing](http://services.unimelb.edu.au/disability/resources/towards_success/deaf_and_hard_of_hearing)