

DISABILITY POLICY

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Policy name	Disability Policy (Issue Five)
Applicability	All Bond University Staff, Students and Visitors
Policy owner	University Registrar
Contact person	Disability Officer
Policy status	Approved Policy
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Related policies and legislation	Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Commonwealth) Disability Services Act 2006 (QLD) Disability Services Regulations 2017 (QLD) Disability Standards for Education 2005 Disability (Access to Premises - Buildings) Standards 2010

1. OVERVIEW

The purpose of this Policy is to ensure all current and prospective [students](#), [carers](#) of students, and staff with [disability](#) have inclusive access to Bond University's buildings and facilities, services, information, events and academic programs in accordance with the obligations Bond University has under the *Disability Discrimination Act 1992* and *Disability Services Act 2006*.

Bond University will have a Disability, Access and Inclusion Plan which will give effect to this Policy and meet the requirements of existing State and Federal legislation.

2. PRINCIPLES

- Bond University will take all reasonable steps to identify and eliminate unlawful [discrimination](#) in order to promote a study and work environment that is equitable for its students and staff with disabilities.
- Bond University shall endeavour to take all reasonable steps in providing dignified, equitable and reasonably achievable access to buildings and facilities and services within the buildings for students, staff and visitors.
- Bond University aims to ensure the delivery of all services to students and staff with disabilities in a manner which respects and promotes their human dignity, rights and opportunities, privacy and confidentiality.
- Bond University recognises its obligations to provide a safe physical study and work environment in which students and staff with disabilities can partake.

3. THE POLICY

3.1. Provision of Education Facilities

3.1.1. Prospective Student Disclosure

Prospective students with disabilities are responsible for disclosing the nature of their disabilities and their accessibility needs during Bond University's admission and enrolment procedures. Failure to disclose may result in the University being unable to provide the individual with any accommodating requirements.

Bond University may request information or documentation from a qualified health practitioner about the student's disability and individual requirements in order to access what is a reasonable adjustment for that student.

3.1.2. Current Student Disclosure

Current students with disabilities are responsible for disclosing the nature of their disabilities and their needs for any measures to accommodate those disabilities to the Disability Officer within the timelines published on the Bond *Procedures for Accessing Support* website (<https://bond.edu.au/current->

[students/services-support/services/disability/procedures-accessing-support](#)). Any requests for such accommodations must be supported by evidence from either medical or other experts relating to the nature of the student's disability. It is reasonable for Bond University to request additional information if required to assess the impact of the disability on a student's learning and to determine what reasonable adjustments should be made for assessment purposes. When assessing a request for reasonable adjustment, Bond University will also seek to preserve the [Program Inherent Requirements](#) of an academic program.

3.1.3. Reasonable Adjustment

Bond University will maintain the academic requirements for its subjects/programs and will ensure that those upon whom it confers an award can present themselves as having the appropriate knowledge, experience and expertise implicit in the holding of that particular award. (*Disability Standards for Education* Clause 3.4(3)).

'Reasonable adjustments' will be made to accommodate a student with disability, but a reasonable adjustment needs to be justifiable while upholding the integrity of the subject/program. A 'reasonable adjustment' is a measure or action taken to assist a student with disability to participate in education on the same basis as other students.

An adjustment is reasonable if it can be made whilst taking into account the Program Inherent Requirements and/or stated learning outcomes of a subject/program, the student's education needs and balancing the interests of all parties affected, including the University, staff and other students.

Bond University will not provide an adjustment that would impose unjustifiable hardship or compromise the health and welfare of the student.

3.1.4. Support Plans and Support Services

Bond University will take all reasonable steps to ensure that all students will be able to use student support services on the same basis and without experiencing discrimination, regardless of disability.

A [Support Plan](#) will be provided to a student whose situation warrants reasonable adjustment. This plan will be developed with the student by the Disability Officer and will document the student's individual needs for adjustment to learning and assessment conditions, how these will be implemented, and how the student will be supported to have the same opportunity to succeed in their studies as other students. Where a student receives reasonable adjustments, they will be required to attend any support services specified by the Disability Officer and included in the Support Plan. The Support Plan will be distributed to relevant academic staff. Confidential information provided to Bond University will only be disclosed for the purposes of making reasonable adjustments, or in accordance with University policy, or in response to a lawful request.

3.1.5. Carer or Assistant

Where a student with a disability requires a [Carer or Assistant](#):

- It is the responsibility of the student who requires the Carer or Assistant to apply to the Disability Officer so that provision may be included in the Support Plan;
- It is also the responsibility of the student to individually inform the Lecturer or Tutor prior to class commencing if a Carer or Assistant will be attending class;
- The Carer or Assistant should be unobtrusive and a non-participant of the class; and
- If the student is involved in any clinical practices that involve signing confidentiality agreements as part of class participation, then the Carer or Assistant must also sign such an agreement.

3.2. Employment

Bond University recognises and values the importance of establishing a diverse workforce and promotes equitable employment practices which are intended to ensure that the best person is employed for the job in a climate free from discrimination.

It is reasonable to seek information and evidence about a prospective employee's disability requirements, provided that the purpose of the inquiry is to provide equal opportunity or to provide accessible services to support an employee with disability. Bond University may request in advance supporting evidence from either medical or other expert opinion relating to the nature of the prospective employee's disability.

3.2.1. Reasonable Adjustment

Reasonable adjustment does not include changing the [Employment Inherent Requirements](#) of the position but rather is intended to enable an employee to meet those requirements. An adjustment is reasonable if it can both take into account the employee's needs and balance the interests of all parties affected, including the University and other employees. For example: a 'reasonable adjustment' might be an alteration to a feature of the work environment or workstation.

In making the adjustment, each case needs to be considered in its own circumstances and on its own merits in consultation with the Manager/Supervisor of the area. Reasonable costs will be met by the relevant Faculty/Bond University College or Office.

3.3. Physical Environment

Bond University will use Universal Design principles to guide the design of its buildings, facilities, academic programs and services.

3.3.1. Student Accommodation (on campus)

Bond University Student Accommodation is able to accommodate a limited number of students with a mobility disability. These rooms are designed for access by persons with disability in accordance with the appropriate current Australian Building Codes and Australian Standards.

3.4. Unjustifiable Hardship

Bond University is not required to provide a reasonable adjustment that would impose unjustifiable hardship or compromise the health and welfare of the student, staff and others.

In determining whether a requirement would cause unjustifiable hardship to the University, the advice of the Manager, Work, Health & Safety, and the Disability Officer should be sought.

4. DEFINITIONS

Bond University uses the definitions of disability, discrimination and [harassment](#) as stated under Commonwealth and State legislation.

Carer or Assistant	For the purposes of this Policy, a carer or assistant , in relation to a person with a disability, is one of the following who provides assistance or services to the person because of the disability: (a) a carer; (b) an assistant; (c) an interpreter; (d) a reader.
Disability	A temporary or permanent, total or partial, lifelong or acquired impairment that is attributable to a physical, sensory, intellectual, psychiatric, neurological, cognitive learning difficulty, disfigurement and/or serious illness. This impairment results in a reduced ability to access services provided by the University, and a need for support services to overcome these barriers.
Discrimination	To treat a person less favorably because of his or her disability, than a person without that disability would be treated in the same or similar circumstances.
Disability Officer	The disability officer(s) employed in that role by Bond University from time to time.
Harassment	An action because of, or in relation to, the disability of a person that humiliates, offends, intimidates or distresses, whether intended or not.
Employment Inherent Requirements	Inherent Requirements are the essential activities of the job: those core duties that must be carried out in order to fulfil the purpose of a position. Inherent requirements relate to outcomes/results/what must be accomplished, rather than means, or how it is accomplished. Inherent Requirements do not refer to all of the requirements of a job, but contrast with peripheral or non-essential tasks.
Program Inherent Requirements	The academic requirements of program and other requirements or components that are inherent in or essential to its nature (AHRC website and otherwise as defined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 Section 21A).
Students	For the purposes of this Policy, includes Bond University and Bond University College students.
Support Plan	A support plan is a document provided by the Disability Officer that outlines the reasonable adjustments recommended for a student with a disability at Bond University.

5. RELATED PROCEDURES, [GUIDELINES AND FORMS](#)

[Accessibility & Inclusion Action Plan for Students 2019-2022](#)

Application for Reasonable Adjustment

Professional Supporting Certificate

Support Plan