

Admissions

Course development

Preparing documents

Lectures, seminars

Tutorials

Fieldwork

Laboratories

Workshops

Placement learning

Assessment

Professional bodies

SENDA

Compliance

in Higher Education

An audit and guidance tool for accessible practice within the framework of teaching and learning

South West Academic Network for Disability Support (SWANDS)

HIGHER EDUCATION *hefce* FUNDING COUNCIL FOR ENGLAND

Improving Provision for Disabled Students 1999-2002



The South West Academic Network for Disability Support (SWANDS)

The South West Academic Network for Disability Support (SWANDS) is a HEFCE funded Project of 9 HEIs in the South West, co-ordinated and managed by the Disability Assist Services at the University of Plymouth. A full list of the institutions and the participating membership can be found on the inside rear cover of this document.

The group of senior academics, lecturers and disability service managers who formed the network considered that there was an urgent need to make a comprehensive response to supporting SENDA compliance in key areas in the sector. Through the issues raised by the discussion and debate at the SWANDS Network meetings it was decided to produce a guidance resource for faculty staff in the form of a self-auditing tool for individuals and departments. The consensus was that for systemic change to take place, current practice in the broad areas of admissions, accessible learning, teaching and assessment for disabled students would have to be targeted at all levels.

In order to inform the development of this guidance and audit tool a series of student interviews were undertaken and staff views were invited across a broad range of discipline areas. To maintain confidentiality of sources, staff comments are not attributed and individual student names have been changed. To protect respondents, only broad curriculum areas have been defined, rather than individual specific subjects.

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SENDA

Compliance in accessible practice within the framework of **Higher Education**

**South West Academic Network for
Disability Support (SWANDS)**

**A HEFCE funded Project
Improving Provision for Disabled Students
1999-2002**

Co-ordinated by the University of Plymouth

**Edited and written
by Judith Waterfield and Bob West**






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The Project partners gave generously of their time and ideas at SWANDS Network meetings, which helped formulate the need for a guidance and audit tool of this kind to support SENDA compliance. As an additional commitment senior managers in the Co-ordinating and partner institutions waived a considerable amount of the costs incurred for the staff "buy out" time, which was a key facet of the proposed project funding. As a consequence it was possible to produce a more exhaustive document with sector-wide availability in both printed and electronic formats.

The strength of this document is in many ways a consequence of the disabled students who participated in SWANDS. Being prepared to talk constructively, critically and at length about one's experiences of Higher Education, is a serious commitment and time consuming in a busy schedule. The disabled student contribution was especially valued for bringing a personal and pragmatic sense of realism to the necessarily more abstract aspects of auditing.



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