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Disability Action Plan

In May 2024, the University Council endorsed Te Kokeka Whakamua, the University of Otago Disability Action Plan (DAP). The plan reflects the University's commitment to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and supportive environment for disabled students¹. It outlines actions to remove barriers to participation, achievement, and belonging, helping ensure all students can thrive as part of the Otago experience. The DAP aligns with the University's Vision 2040 and Pae Tata strategic plans, focusing on equity in student participation and achievement and upholds Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which affirms the right to education without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity. The DAP provides the foundation for transformational change, recognising that achieving its goals will require coordinated action and commitment across the entire University.

DAP Prompts for Departmental Reviews

1. How familiar is the department with the five goals of the DAP, and what current initiatives align with them?
2. How are disabled students currently supported by the department?
3. How does the University's commitment to fostering an inclusive, accessible, and supportive environment for disabled students shape the department's culture, practices, and priorities?
4. What further opportunities can the department identify to advance disability inclusion and strengthen alignment with the DAP goals? Consider areas such as leadership, curriculum development, inclusive teaching practices, universal design for learning, language and culture, and staff professional development.

[Te Kokeka Whakamua – University of Otago Disability Action Plan 2024 - 2027](#)

For information on supporting students with disabilities contact Disability Information and Support:

T: 03 479 8235

E: disabilites@otago.ac.nz

W: www.otago.ac.nz/disabilities

For information on supporting the DAP goals contact Student Services Divisional Office:

T: 03 479 5033

E: learnersuccessplan@otago.ac.nz

¹ The term 'disabled students' is used to emphasise that attitudinal and environmental barriers, rather than individual impairment, can disable a person. Some people may prefer the term 'students with disabilities' or opt for no label at all. We fully respect each person's right to determine the terminology that feels most appropriate to them.