



香港大學
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



cedars
Centre of Development and Resources for Students
學生發展及資源中心

SUPPORTING TERTIARY STUDENTS WITH VISUAL IMPAIRMENT



SEN
SUPPORT

SUPPORTING TERTIARY STUDENTS WITH

VISUAL IMPAIRMENT



What is VI?

Visual Impairment (VI) is a functional loss of vision that cannot be corrected by optical lenses, medication and/or operation. The level of vision loss can be classified into total blindness (no perception of light) and low vision (severe to moderate and mild) in relation to visual acuity, visual field, and other factors. In addition, color-blindness is another common form of VI. Students may suffer from partial or total color blindness. Generally, students with VI may use specialized eye glasses, assistive technology, canes, and/or guide dogs.



What support do students with VI need in university life?

Reasonable accommodations and support may enhance their learning and adaptation in different aspects of university life, examples of which include:



LEARNING

- ▶ Provide course materials and notes to the student in accessible formats in advance (e.g. in electronic format, Braille)
- ▶ Enlarge images and font sizes of text, or allow the use of magnifier for reading
- ▶ Allow recording of lectures for later review



ASSESSMENT

- ▶ Extended time for assessments
- ▶ Rest breaks during assessments of long duration
- ▶ Allow the use of assistive devices in assessments (e.g. computer, screen reader and screen magnifier) to display questions and type answers
- ▶ Use enlarged question papers and provide more space (e.g. by combining two tables) to write



COMMUNICATION

- ▶ Address the student and identify yourself first before conversation and inform the student when you leave



SELF-MANAGEMENT

- ▶ Allow extra time for learning and memorizing new routes to unfamiliar locations
- ▶ Contact CEDARS to arrange a fire evacuation plan if there are foreseeable difficulties in using stairs to escape in an emergency



How can I interact with students with VI?

TIPS FOR TEACHERS/TUTORS



Provide verbal or typed descriptions to images, figures, special symbols and videos



Allow the student to attend classes with a guide dog



Allow the student to sit closer to light source but avoid direct sunlight

TIPS FOR PEERS



Offer help to find seats and navigate on campus



Name and describe the surroundings, people and objects on the go, in classes and during activities



Describe information shown in classes that is not included in lecture notes



Offer help to elaborate handwritten materials



Offer help to take or share notes in classes



Your Support Makes a Difference



Thanks a lot for those students who helped me to take notes when I could not see the powerpoint during lectures. The helping hands are really invaluable to my university school life.

**Cheung,
Year 3 student**



Volunteer with Us

All HKU students can contribute to building an inclusive campus. Volunteer opportunities include:

- ▶ Offering academic support (e.g. note-taking, study skills coaching)
- ▶ Providing social skills coaching
- ▶ Organizing activities to promote inclusion and diversity
- ▶ Working with people in recovery of mental illness
- ▶ and many more!

Get in touch with us to find out more.



Available Support for Students with VI

CEDARS Counselling and Person Enrichment (CoPE) Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support

We are committed to supporting students with disabilities or Special Educational Needs (SEN) in overcoming barriers and achieving successful university education. The support provided is meant to “level the playing field” without undermining academic core requirements of a course.

The listed suggestions are not exhaustive and the support needed by students varies individually. Students with special needs are encouraged to meet with us for needs assessment and advice.

For enquiries, please contact us at:

📍 Room 123, 1/F, Main Building

☎ (852) 3910 3200

✉ cedars-SEN@hku.hk

🌐 <http://www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen>

For community resources available for students with SEN, please visit <http://wp2.cedars.hku.hk/sen-resources/>
To learn more about other types of SEN, please visit www.cedars.hku.hk/cope/sen-leaflets