

Physical impairment / mobility issues

These can affect the bones, joints, muscles or nerves which control movement and applies to any condition which limits a person's mobility or movement or causes pain on movement. It also includes medical conditions which limit mobility, such as cerebral palsy, fibromyalgia, multiple sclerosis and chronic fatigue syndrome.



Top Tips for Academic Staff

- Students with mobility impairments will take longer to move around campus so try to avoid last minute room changes wherever possible
- Consider the impacts of timetabling locations; students with mobility impairment should not be disadvantaged due to late arrival if timetabling requires them to move across campus between sessions
- Handwriting and dexterity-focused tasks can be difficult – the student may have a Notetaker or a Practical Support Assistant (PSA) accompanying them in lectures
- Ensure all physical environments the student is required to attend are accessible and free from hazards. Consideration should also be given to such things as whether doors can be easily opened and whether there is enough space for a wheelchair
- Students with a mobility impairment sometimes find that physical fatigue can be worse at certain times of the day, so you may need to offer 'time out'
- There may be occasions when students with mobility impairments cannot attend sessions – the student will need access to the content they missed
- If the student uses a wheelchair or has a mobility aid, try to sit at the same level as the student, do not lean on the wheel chair or aid as it is likely to form part of the student's personal space

For further information please visit www.wales.nhs.uk / www.nhs.uk