

Visual impairment

This refers to sight loss which is not correctable by glasses. Individuals with a degree of sight loss can choose to register as blind or partially sighted following assessment with an ophthalmologist:

- Individuals registered as blind can range from those with no light perception to those who can read only the top letter of the optician's eye chart from three metres or less.
- Individuals registered as partially sighted are only able to read the top letter on the eye chart from a distance of between three and six metres.
- A fully-sighted individual is able to read the top letter of the eye chart at twenty metres.

There are numerous eye conditions which affect people in very individual ways. The RNIB has a wealth of information, including a list of eye conditions and their likely effects.



Top Tips for Academic Staff

- Consider ensuring introductions take place in such a way as to allow identification of name to a voice
- Verbalise any information which is written, drawn or shown during sessions
- Check how the student would like to receive feedback
- Discuss with the student issues which group work and presentations may give rise to
- Be aware of hazards in the classroom
- If present, be aware that a guide dog is a working animal and should not be approached or petted without the owner's permission; ensure all other students are also aware of this
- Arrange seating so that the individual is seated with the light behind them and so you are not in shadow
- If the student does not have a Practical Support Assistant (PSA) with them and you think they need to be guided when moving round the room or building, ask them if they would like assistance by offering to take their arm and describe the route and any hazards

For further information please visit www.rnib.org.uk