**Student Guidance - Medical Evidence Information Sheet**

**Medical Evidence**

When looking to obtain medical evidence in relation to your disability or impairment, your general practitioner (GP) or suitably qualified specialist needs to ensure that they are meeting the ‘Definition of a Disability’ under the Equality Act 2010.

You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.

**What ‘substantial’ and ‘long-term’ mean**

* Substantial is more than minor or trivial
* Long-term means 12 months or more

*When writing information regarding your difficulties, your doctor should:*

* *State a clear diagnosis*
* *Confirm if the condition has or is likely to last for a year or more and fall under the definition of the equality act*
* *Outline the effects of the condition on learning/attendance at University etc.*
* *State impact on day-to- day activities. It is very helpful, if you foresee any impact to be ‘substantial’ in an academic environment, to state this.*

*In looking at these areas, they should consider if the condition affects the student’s:*

* *Concentration*
* *Motivation*
* *Short term/long term memory*
* *Ability to mix in groups – anxiety*

*Finally, if taking any medication, does it have any side effects that may impact on learning?*