



# Computing Services for Disabled Students and Students with Specific Learning Difficulties

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The University provides a range of services designed to help disabled students gain better access to the University's computing facilities and to support them throughout their studies, as described in this fact sheet.

## Classroom Provision

All classroom and library PCs have assistive software installed, and most classrooms include the provision of at least one height-adjustable desk. The assistive software is available through shortcuts on the classroom *Desktop* and includes the following:

|                                  |  |
|----------------------------------|--|
| Windows 7: Ease of Access Centre | Windows 7 introduces a range of built in accessibility options to Microsoft's most recent operating system. It includes a magnifier and a screen reader as well as many other visual and access options.   |
| Ginger                           | An innovative literacy support tool which offers enhanced spell-checking and grammar-checking facilities, as well as a text-to-speech feature to aid proof-reading. This tool is particularly useful for students with specific learning difficulties.<br><br><a href="http://www.gingersoftware.com/">http://www.gingersoftware.com/</a>  |
| MindManager                      | This programme allow users to plan and organise their work effectively using a visual layout that can be useful for all students. Our MindManager license also allows a registered student to download and install a copy of this software on their own computer. (see the software download service for details: <a href="https://www.abdn.ac.uk/local/download/index.php">https://www.abdn.ac.uk/local/download/index.php</a> )<br><br><a href="http://www.mindjet.com/">http://www.mindjet.com/</a> |

## Assistive Technology Booths (ATBs)

There are a number of small, private rooms available with more specialised computers, hardware and software, and have adjustable desks and chairs. These Booths are available only to the students who require them and can be booked in advance. In addition to the standard software above there are many additional facilities available in the Booths.

### Locations of Assistive Technology Booths:

| Building               | Location                                     | Online Booking?         |
|------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| Edward Wright (3 ATBs) | Block A, Ground Floor (next to Service Desk) | Yes (Booths 2 & 3 only) |
| MacRobert Building     | Room 113A                                    | Yes                     |
| Polwarth Building      | Medical School Library (near Issue Desk)     | Yes                     |
| Suttie Centre          | Inside Room 001, next to Reception           | Yes                     |

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**Additional software available in the booths includes:**

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| Dragon Naturally Speaking | Software which allows a user to control a computer using speech. It allows the user to talk to the computer to carry out commands (instead of using a mouse) or to write essays (instead of using a keyboard).<br><br><i><a href="http://www.nuance.co.uk">http://www.nuance.co.uk</a></i> |
| ClaroRead                 | A suite of literacy support tools designed to support anybody with their reading and writing. This tool is most commonly used by students with specific learning difficulties.<br><br><i><a href="http://www.clarosoftware.com/">http://www.clarosoftware.com/</a></i>                     |
| Book Scanners             | Book Scanners provide a valuable way for students to choose the format in which they access their information, from Braille to digitised speech. These scanners are particularly suited to scanning books without causing any damage.  |
| Audio Notetaker           | Helps organise digital audio recordings such as lectures.  |

Please note that there is other software available and new solutions are being added each year so contact us if you have any specific requirements not listed.

### **Braille Embossing**

A Braille embosser is situated in the Edward Wright building. Before being embossed, documents must be formatted correctly for the embosser. For advice on preparing and sending documents for embossing, please contact the Assistive Technology Advisers, or visit *<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/dit/student/print/braille>*.

### **Help & Advice**

For further information and advice please contact any of the following services:

#### **Assistive Technology Advisers**

Edward Wright Building, Room G86B  
E-mail: *[atech@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:atech@abdn.ac.uk)*  
Tel: (01224) 273336  
*[www.abdn.ac.uk/atech](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/atech)*

#### **DIT Service Desk**

Edward Wright Building, Room G83, QML  
Library & Medical School Library  
Tel: (01224) 273636  
E-mail: *[servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk)*  
*[www.abdn.ac.uk/servicedesk](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/servicedesk)*

#### **Disability Advisers**

Student Advice & Support Centre, The Hub  
E-mail: *[student.disability@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:student.disability@abdn.ac.uk)*  
Tel: (01224) 273935  
*[www.abdn.ac.uk/disabilities](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/disabilities)*