

Assistive Technology – Support for Students

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

Campus PCs

All classroom and library PCs have assistive software installed, and most classrooms include the provision of at least one height-adjustable desk. Assistive software is available through classroom desktop shortcuts:

Windows 10 – Ease of Access Centre

- Windows 10 includes 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.
- www.microsoft.com/en-us/accessibility/windows

ClaroRead Pro

- A suite of literacy support tools including text-to-speech, spell checking and visual tools, with the addition of OCR (Optical Character Recognition) and scanning functions for converting print text into digital text for increased accessibility. This tool is most commonly used by students with specific learning differences.
- www.clarosoftware.com/

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: www.abdn.ac.uk/local/download/).
- www.mindjet.com/

NVDA

- NVDA is a screen reading tool for people with a visual impairment. JAWS is available on select computers for people requiring a more powerful screen-reader, but NVDA allows us to cover all campus computers.
- www.nvaccess.org/

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

For information about access to these booths and the booking system – please contact the Assistive Technology Team – see page 3 for contact details.

Building	Location	Online Booking?
Edward Wright (2 ATBs)	Block A, Ground Floor (next to Service Desk)	Yes (Booths 1 & 2 only)
Main Library (4 ATBs)	Floor 1 and Floor 4	Yes
MacRobert Building	Room 113A	Yes
Polwarth Building	Medical School Library (near Issue Desk)	Yes
Suttie Centre	Inside Room 001, next to Reception	Yes

Additional software available in the booths

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).
- www.nuance.co.uk/

ABBYY FineReader

- Advanced OCR software which allows a user to convert and edit a variety of inaccessible file types (e.g. PDF)
- www.abbyy.com

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 damage.

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. We also have a limited pool of loan equipment and software available if required.

Braille Embossing and Tactile Diagrams

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.

The Assistive Technology team can create tactile diagrams which allow visually impaired users to engage with visual materials. Please speak to the Assistive Technology advisors for more information about this service.

Help & Advice

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

Assistive Technology Advisers

Edward Wright Building, Room G86B

email: atech@abdn.ac.uk

Tel: (01224) 273336

www.abdn.ac.uk/atech

Disability Advisers

Student Advice & Support Centre, The Hub

email: student.disability@abdn.ac.uk

Tel: (01224) 273935

www.abdn.ac.uk/disabilities

IT Service Desks

Old Aberdeen: The Sir Duncan Rice Library, First Floor

Foresterhill: Polwarth Medical Library (Room 1:122)

email: servicedesk@abdn.ac.uk

online: <https://myit.abdn.ac.uk>

www.abdn.ac.uk/it/student/help