

# Offsite placements

As a student, you may need to attend a placement (similar to work experience) as part of your course. Off-campus placements are crucial in ensuring fair access to instruction and hands-on learning opportunities. Usually, these positions are made to meet the unique requirements of individual students with specific conditions, while collaborating with the appropriate personnel.

## Key considerations

### Accessibility planning

- Universities should collaborate with placement organisations to ensure the environment is physically and socially accessible.
- Adjustments may include wheelchair ramps, accessible bathrooms, assistive technology, or alternative communication methods if you need them.

### Tailored support

- You may need tailored support such as a one-to-one, additional training, or flexible working hours.
- Disability services at universities often provide resources and help coordinate these adjustments.



## **Inclusive communication**

Open communication among yourself, your university, and your placement provider is crucial. You should be involved in discussions to express your personal needs and preferences.

## **Reasonable adjustments**

Current UK legislation, for example, the Equality Act 2010, specifies that institutions must provide reasonable adjustments to accommodate disabled students.

## **Health & safety**

A risk assessment may be necessary to identify potential barriers and ensure safety without compromising your learning experience.



# Transport & accessibility

## University-provided transport

### Shuttle services

Many universities offer free, accessible shuttle buses equipped with ramps or lifts to accommodate wheelchairs and other mobility aids.

- Check that your chosen university & campus have these facilities if needed.

## Public transport accessibility

### Accessible buses and trains

The Equality Act 2010 and other similar laws require public transport to provide reasonable adjustments for people with disabilities, and carriers often provide wheelchair-accessible vehicles, ramps and priority seating.

### Discounted fares

Depending on where you live and what mode of transport you prefer, disabled students may qualify for reduced fares or free travel with appropriate documentation or passes. Check the university's local council website to see what you are entitled to.

## Local authority scheme

In the UK, several local authorities have programs to assist those with special needs with their taxi expenses. The kind of assistance that is offered, will vary depending on where you reside, so you should enquire with the university's local authority to see whether they have a program in place.

- This could be ideal if you decide to live at home to avoid the stress of public transport and its costs.

## Parking and personal vehicles

### Accessible parking

Campuses typically designate parking spaces for disabled students close to key facilities. Some students may have their vehicles adapted for specific needs.

### Permits

Students may need to apply for disability parking permits through the university or local authorities. These include a current 'Blue Badge' or a statement from a GP or consultant, confirming your diagnosis and its impact on mobility, to allow you to apply for disability parking permits through the university.