

Admission and support for students with learning difficulties or physical disabilities

All applications are assessed on a case-by-case basis, and it is entrusted to the student or their representative to declare specific learning requirements, special needs or physical disabilities. Our application forms ask whether the student has any health problems or disabilities.

Accordingly the school can then assess whether it is in a position to accept the student and consider what appropriate provisions and actions to adopt. Where the school deems it is unable to offer the necessary facilities, resources or expertise to meet the student's needs, it can then inform the student or their representative prior to leaving for the UK.

The school building comprises 55 classrooms over 9 floors, connected by stairs, two lifts and a fire escape. Health and safety considerations are paramount and have to override disability rights considerations, particularly with regard to fire safety and not being able to use lifts in the case of a fire. This means that, in the case of a wheelchair-bound student, the building has only limited access as there is only one classroom on the ground floor. Nonetheless, the room may not be available due to the needs of other courses or activities and it may not be possible to accept a wheelchair-bound student for this reason. In all cases we seek to comply with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act of 1995.

Should a student arrive with a special need or disability not previously established, then LSI Portsmouth will do whatever it can, within its capabilities, to supply appropriate support. However, LSI Portsmouth cannot supply professional identification of special needs. Information regarding various learning difficulties and special needs has been compiled and is continuously updated to assist teachers who suspect that a student may need extra assistance. This is available to all teachers and is kept in the main staffroom. Teachers are asked in the weekly teachers' meeting whether they have any concerns for students in their class who might have specific learning difficulties.

When it becomes clear that LSI Portsmouth cannot attend to a student's particular needs, the school will endeavour to offer advice as to appropriate alternative providers, or arrange for the student to return home.