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**DIAGNOSING DYSLEXIA: The full diagnostic assessment process**

After an initial screening, you may be referred for an Educational Psychologist’s (EP) assessment. This will be with a recommended Psychologist, who is used to diagnosing dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties in adults and students in Higher Education. It is important that a detailed report about your dyslexia is provided, so that the right support can be put in place for you.

***Getting a new diagnostic report***

To access Disabled Students' Allowances, extra time or other arrangements for exams, you will need a detailed report clearly diagnosing your specific learning difficulty/ies and how this affects you.  The report must:

* Be completed by a Chartered Educational Psychologist or suitably qualified professional
* Contain the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS) subtest scores and results (usually at the back of the report, or shown in graph form)
* Have been completed within the last three years, to highlight relevant support available (this has changed considerably over the past 5-10 years).

If you need to update your diagnostic report, please contact us for the list of recommended Educational Psychologists. These Psychologists provide detailed, helpful reports that can be used to access extra time or additional funding.

Funding for new diagnostic assessment needs to be agreed in advance by the College and the student, please do not book on the “off chance” that the RVC will contribute.

**Please note: At key points in the year (usually Sep/Oct and around exam times), you may need to wait for an appointment as psychologists get booked up.  To avoid missing out on exam concessions, make sure you arrange an appointment in advance of our exams.**

***What does the test involve?***

Your appointment with a Psychologist will usually take place in the Psychologist’s house or at a private centre. You should allow approximately 2.5 - 4 hours for the assessment and you don’t need to take anything with you.

The ‘test’ is a combination of small sub-tests, which are developed to measure all aspects of learning and cognitive behaviour (relating to perception, memory, judgement and reasoning). For example; you will undertake small timed tasks to measure your memory skills and your writing speed. The test is not about how well you do; the main purpose is to find out if there are any particular differences or difficulties in your learning style so that these can be worked upon.

Most students find the test interesting and there are positives too – it can give you a good overview of what you’re good at and where your strengths lie, which can help build your confidence.

***Payment***

**From 1st September 2014: the cost of EP assessments is £450. UK students may apply for assistance with funding towards this cost from the College. Applications can be made to the Money and Welfare Adviser (**[**moneymatters@rvc.ac.uk**](mailto:moneymatters@rvc.ac.uk)**).**

**International students’ assessments are paid in full by the College.**

**NB: Your invoice will only be paid if you are told to update your report or otherwise referred directly by Advice Centre staff at the RVC. Please do not book on the “off chance” that the RVC will contribute.**

**You must contact** [**disability@rvc.ac.uk**](mailto:disability@rvc.ac.uk) **to arrange making payment BEFORE booking an appointment. Please note: your Assessor will need to see confirmation of payment BEFORE your assessment.**

**Please cancel your appointment if you cannot attend otherwise you may be invoiced personally for the missed appointment**

Disability Adviser

Advice Centre

[disability@rvc.ac.uk](mailto:disability@rvc.ac.uk)





