

Assistance Animal Application Process (Students)

RVC define Assistance Dogs as those that have been specifically trained to assist a disabled person and which have been qualified by an organisation registered with [Assistance Dogs \(UK\)](#) or an equivalent organisation in another country such as the [Assistance Dogs International \(ADI\)](#) or the [International Guide Dog Federation \(IGDF\)](#).

Any student enquiring about assistance animals should be directed to contact RVC's Student Disability Adviser by emailing disability@rvc.ac.uk



The Disability Adviser will obtain further information from the student and ask them to complete the Assistance Animal application form and provide relevant supporting documentation



Once the application and supporting evidence is received, the Disability Adviser, seeking advice from the Head of the Advice Centre as necessary, will decide whether the request meets the criteria for assistance animals under the RVC code of conduct for dogs on campus and Equality Act requirements.



If the Disability Adviser considers that the request for an assistance animal would constitute a reasonable adjustment they will confirm to the student that the assistance animal will be permitted and will ask the student to sign the Assistance Animal agreement confirming that they understand their responsibilities and agree to abide by the considerations laid out in the Code of Conduct.



Once the signed agreement is received the Disability Adviser will liaise with relevant RVC colleagues e.g. Estates, Health and Safety, Course Team to ensure that relevant staff are aware and can make any reasonable adjustments needed.



If the student's request for an assistance animal does not meet the criteria outlined in the RVC Code of Conduct for Assistance Dogs on Campus, the Disability Adviser will reject the application and advise the student accordingly.



In cases where the Disability Adviser is unable to make a clear decision they will consult with senior management (Director of Learning and Wellbeing, Director of Infrastructure Services, DP) to agree the best way forward.