



## Resources for students planning for university who have a vision impairment

### DURING YEAR 11 and 12

- ✓ Check out the **Get Ready for Uni** website: [www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready](http://www.uws.edu.au/ndco/getready)
- ✓ Plan to go to **University Open/Info Days** (usually Aug/Sept) and meet the disability staff as well as the course coordinator.
- ✓ **University Disability Staff** are available to meet with prospective students during year 12 (or sooner). Once you know which universities you are interested in, consider making an appointment during your term break. You can find contact details online: [www.adcet.edu.au/Uni\\_Disability\\_Advisers.chpx](http://www.adcet.edu.au/Uni_Disability_Advisers.chpx)
- ✓ **Educational Access Scheme:**  
UAC recognises disability as a long term educational disadvantage and this scheme may help you get into the course you want to. The application form for this is submitted via UAC. At your school, the person who can help you with this is:  

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- ✓ **Assistive Technology / Adaptive Technology:**  
Find out what is available and get yourself skilled up. There is plenty of freeware, you may not have to spend lots of money.
  - **Vision Australia Bursary:**  
Each year Vision Australia awards financial bursaries to tertiary students who are blind or have low vision for the purchase of adaptive technology such as CCTVs, laptops, screen reading and magnification software. Applications open in August and close at the end of October. Eligibility requirements include that applicants need to be an Australian citizen and be (or become) a client of Vision Australia. For more information: [www.visionaustralia.org/bursary](http://www.visionaustralia.org/bursary)
  - **AccessApps** is a suite of 60 freeware programs which you can download to a USB (NVDA is included): [www.eduapps.org](http://www.eduapps.org)

- **NVDA** (NonVisual Desktop Access) is a free and open source screen reader for the Microsoft Windows operating system. Download it to a usb or on your PC: [www.nvda-project.org/](http://www.nvda-project.org/)

## **AFTER YOU GET AN OFFER**

University Disability Staff are around during the holidays. As soon as possible after you get an offer, make an appointment so you can talk through what adjustments you might need during enrolment and orientation. Disability Staff get very busy as it gets closer to the start of the semester, so it's good to get your appointment made so the adjustments you need will be ready for when classes begin. It's also important to plan for the time it will take to learn your way around the campus.

## **WHO DO I TELL and WHO CAN HELP at Uni?**

### **Disclosure: It's a Personal Choice**

At Uni, you don't have to tell everyone everything. It's a much bigger place than school so it's important to think through what you want people to know. This website will help you think through what you would like to do so your privacy is protected and you get the help you may need: [www.uws.edu.au/ndco/disclosure](http://www.uws.edu.au/ndco/disclosure)

### **Disability Services**

If you need adjustments to your study because of your vision impairment (eg text in electronic format, notetakers, exam conditions, etc) you will need to register with the Disability Services at Uni and provide medical documentation. The staff will explain how the service works, what your responsibilities are and how your academics will be notified of your adjustments each semester.

### **Making an Appointment**

It is best to make an appointment well in advance so you can be sure to get your preferred time. Once you are registered, a good strategy might be to make the next appointment before you leave the office.

## **RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS:**

- Towards Success in Tertiary Study is a series of guides for students with a range of disabilities including vision impairment and general learning styles.  
[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/edp/policy/success/blindlowvision.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/edp/policy/success/blindlowvision.html)  
[www.services.unimelb.edu.au/edp/policy/success/learningstyles.html](http://www.services.unimelb.edu.au/edp/policy/success/learningstyles.html)
- National Disability Coordination Officer (NDCO): Your NDCO can answer questions you have about your transition from school to Uni. To find your local NDCO in NSW/ACT: [www.yourownpathtosuccess.com](http://www.yourownpathtosuccess.com)



Australian Government  
Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations

