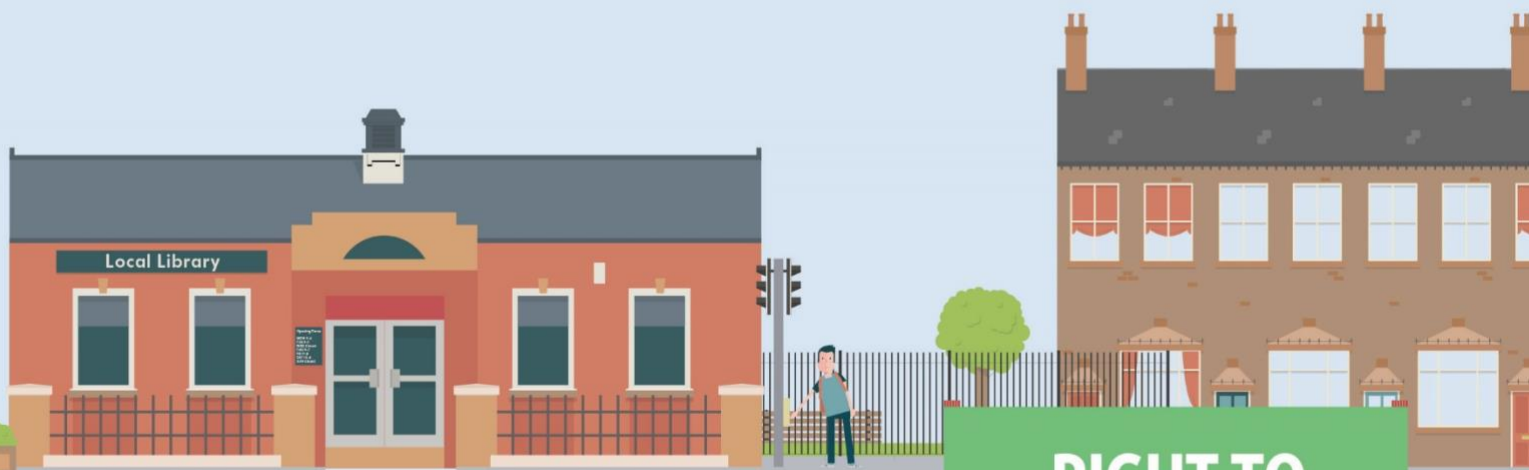


Education

Applying

Open days



**RIGHT TO
PARTICIPATE**

Useful knowledge

Under the Equality Act 2010, education providers must not discriminate against people who want to visit and find out more about their courses. They are also expected to provide support for disabled applicants and make all necessary 'reasonable adjustments' to ensure their facilities are accessible.

Most colleges and universities have Open Days. These are really good opportunities to look around, meet course tutors and ask questions.

Useful knowledge

- Effective communication
- Negotiation skills
- Writing clearly

Ways to assert your legal rights

- 1.** Contact the admissions officer or the head of department for your course. They'll be used to arranging visits and will usually welcome enquiries from students living with a health condition or disability. They may be able to arrange for you to speak to students on the course you're interested in as well as other disabled students at the institution. You may also be able to meet accommodation staff and try out the facilities in halls.
- 2.** If you think you might need additional support to access an Open Day, it's best to contact the staff member responsible for disability. This person is usually called the learning support adviser, inclusive learning coordinator or disability adviser disability. You can ask for any questions or issues you have to be kept confidential if you prefer.

Support arrangements for Open Days could include:

- Parking space
- Map of wheelchair accessible routes
- Information in large print

- Sign language interpreter or other communication aid,
- Accommodation for you and your personal assistant.

3. It's not usually necessary to start quoting the Equality Act in relation to Open Days. Most colleges and universities have a good understanding of their legal duties and will be very willing to help disabled applicants or people just researching their options.

However, if you experience difficulties getting the support you need, you can frame your request as follows:

Under the Equality Act 2010, education providers have a duty to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students. I would like to request all reasonable steps be taken to make your Open Days accessible.

It's always useful to the college or university if, at the same time as asserting your rights, you can suggest practical examples of reasonable adjustments you would find helpful.

[Download template complaint letter about failure to make reasonable adjustments](#)

You can have confidence in the process because

Colleges and universities have been covered by the Disability Discrimination Act since 2001 and the Equality Act since 2010. Most have well-developed systems for making sure disabled people can visit, ask questions, discuss their needs and apply to their courses.

We regularly hear examples of students who have successfully negotiated the support and adjustments they need through informal discussion and working through the learner support or disability service.

If the institution agrees to adapt buildings or things on your course, ask them to put this in writing.

You can get more help from

The [Equality Advisory & Support Service \(EASS\)](#) runs a free helpline assisting individuals with equality and human rights issues across England, Scotland and Wales.

Telephone • 0808 800 0082
Text phone • 0808 800 0084
Email • [through websites form](#)

Disability Rights UK [student helpline](#)

Telephone • 0330 995 0414
Email • students@disabilityrightsuk.org

Disability Rights UK free factsheets on [Understanding the Equality Act](#) and [Making a complaint](#)