



Disability support within the Technical University of Denmark Denmark

Case study overview

Support for students with disabilities is provided by a state/institution collaboration based on the law of SPS (Special Educational Support). The purpose of SPS is to support disabled students in such a way that they, as far as possible, are able to complete an education on equal terms with their fellow students. Support is granted based on an application and medical documentation. The support is individual and can involve different kinds of physical and technical equipment, personal assistance, a sign language interpreter or a course of counselling. Target groups for SPS are in brief dyslexic students, physically disabled students and students with psychological or mental challenges. The support at the Technical University of Denmark (DTU) is managed and developed via **the Student Support unit at the Office for Study Programmes and Student Affairs.**

The two most predominant kinds of support for students with special needs at DTU are the SPS support and special conditions during written exams. SPS Support for the student takes different forms. Grants for this are determined by the state (Danish Ministry of Education (Specifically: **Kvalitets- og Tilsynsstyrelsen** – The Quality and Regulatory Authority)). Once a grant is given, it is the responsibility of the individual institution to effectuate the support. The key areas of support are: assistive technology, audio support, physical aids (special tables and chairs, special mouse, etc.), personal assistance, sign language interpreter, supervisory programme. The supports determined by DTU are exam supports. At the present time, DTU is



considering the procedure relating to the level of information provided to teachers. Currently mainly teachers who are involved with a disabled student through a supervisory programme will get informed of a student's disability. There are though also students who specifically ask that all their teachers should be informed.

Within the last couple of years, DTU has seen a substantial increase of students receiving support and with this a bigger awareness and attention to the subject has occurred at the institution. Five new DTU initiatives related to students with special needs has also been established within the last academic year:

1. DTU's website regarding student support has been updated and enhanced.
2. Information regarding student support has been distributed throughout DTU.
3. A policy for students with disabilities has been made and verified.
4. For students with mental challenges, a one-day introductory course was held.
5. A network of students with disabilities has emerged.

References

- [1] Technical University of Denmark. ONLINE, available: <http://www.dtu.dk/>
- [2] Technical University of Denmark, SPS. ONLINE, available: http://www.dtu.dk/english/Education/International-Student-Guide/For-admitted-students/Special_needs/Special-Educational-Support

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