



BHASVIC

Requests for Exam Access Arrangements (EAAs) Guidance for Students and Parents/Carers 2020-21

Exam Access Arrangements are for students who experience '*substantial disadvantage*' and '*persistent and significant difficulties*' in accessing examinations.

(Joint Council for Qualifications - JCQ)

Key Points:

1. A student must declare EAAs on application.
2. EAAs do not automatically carry over from school to BHASVIC and we cannot guarantee that a student will continue to receive the same EAAs.
3. BHASVIC cannot accept an Educational Psychologist's report as evidence which will automatically entitle a candidate to EAAs. However, EP reports will be useful to show history of need.
4. To have any EAAs, you must be assessed (or re-assessed) by BHASVIC assessors or provide appropriate medical evidence.
5. BHASVIC is required, under regulation, to have assessed all candidates who have EAAs through *persistent or significant* learning needs.
6. Young people with *long-term* sensory needs, medical or psychological conditions must provide appropriate evidence from an accredited professional/medical consultant to request a continuation of their EAAs at BHASVIC.

If you require further information about Exam Access Arrangements (EAAs), please contact:

Linda Lab - SENDCo, Acting Head of ALS and ESOL: [mail to: l.lab@bhasvic.ac.uk](mailto:l.lab@bhasvic.ac.uk)

General Policy and procedure for assessment of EAAs:

- If a young person has had EAAs at school, they will be invited to be reassessed in September before their courses start to see if they still need the same arrangements for their Level 3 qualifications.
- EAAs at BHASVIC are based on assessments carried out by our own qualified assessors in accordance with the JCQ recommendations. We cannot accept an Educational Psychologist's report for this purpose. EP reports make recommendations for school/college to consider.
- Educational Institutions are required to follow tightly regulated guidelines from the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The JCQ updates the EAA regulations annually and the college must adapt its criteria and methodology for assessing student entitlement each year to ensure compliance. This means that we cannot guarantee that a student will continue to receive the same EAAs they have had at school.
- Following submission of a request and provision of supporting teacher evidence, an assessment will be carried out by one of our qualified assessors to finalise a decision and provide necessary evidence of need to the JCQ.
- Students who have November or January external exams must inform us at the start of September in order to meet the JCQ deadline for application.

General Policy for Medical Evidence for EAAs:

Where exam arrangements are required for long-term medical/mental health reasons:

- For JCQ approved arrangements (Extra time/Scribe) '*specialist evidence*' must be given for example, by a hospital consultant or specialist (*Access Arrangements and Reasonable Adjustments JCQ 2020/2021*).
- For college centre approved arrangements (e.g. separate room) evidence will be requested from an accredited professional medical source (e.g. consultant, mental health professional, CAMHS etc.)

Guidance in relation to specific categories of Exam Access Arrangements

Separate Invigilation (students sit exams with others in a smaller room rather than a large exam hall).

In some cases, a candidate may be unable to complete an examination in the main examination room. However, due to an exceptionally high demand for separate invigilation, the use of a smaller room cannot be simply granted on preference nor given for general exam anxiety.

You may be eligible for separate invigilation under the following categories:

- 'Long term' mental health issues.
- 'Long term' social or emotional needs.
- A medical/physical condition/impairment requiring separate invigilation.
- Eligibility for access arrangements necessitating separate invigilation e.g. use of a scribe

The SENDCo/college assessment team will consider arrangements for a candidate to sit their examination in a smaller room if:

- The candidate provides written evidence of need from an accredited professional medical source outlining their condition and explanation of need.
- A candidate with mental health and/or social/emotional needs is accessing support within college or from an external agency e.g. CAMHs.
- The college is aware of history of need and the candidate is known to the Additional Learning Support department.

Individual Invigilation (student sits exams in individual room)

Individual Invigilation can only be accommodated in **highly exceptional circumstances**.

Individual Invigilation would only be granted where, in addition to the evidence required for a smaller room, the candidate can provide evidence of need from a consultant or specialist which provides details of the student's condition and states exactly why Individual Invigilation is necessary.

Following submission of this evidence, the SENDCo/college assessment team will make a final decision and communicate this back to the applicant and parents or carers.

Supervised Rest Breaks

The college's policy for supervised rest breaks is in line with current JCQ regulations, which state:

"The SENDCo must be satisfied that the candidate has an impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect, giving rise to persistent and significant difficulties; and the candidate is disabled within the meaning of the Equality Act 2010".

Access Arrangements and Reasonable adjustments - JCQ 2020-2021

The SENDCo/college assessment team will always consider if supervised rest breaks would be more appropriate before making an application for 25% extra time.

We cannot make any arrangements for internal or external exams without the required evidence.

Supervised rest breaks could be awarded on account of:

1. Medical conditions – rest breaks can be agreed if you have a serious medical condition, e.g. type 1 diabetes. Medical evidence is required.
2. Diagnoses of ASC or AD(H)D - if you have a diagnosis, we will look at the recommendations and consider whether rest breaks will be helpful in exams. Evidence of your diagnosis is required.
3. Social, mental and emotional needs where current written evidence of need is provided from an accredited professional medical source outlining the condition and explanation of current need.
4. Sensory or physical needs where sitting or writing/reading for an extended period of time causes significant discomfort/difficulty. Medical evidence from an accredited professional is required.

BHASVIC's policy is that a student be allowed rest breaks totalling **5 minutes per hour**. Therefore, a student sitting a 2-hour examination will be allowed a maximum of 10 minutes' rest break.

Deviations from this will be discussed and agreed with the candidate in advance of their exam.

Use of a Word Processor in Exams

The JCQ provides the following guidelines on when it is acceptable for individuals to be given access to word processing during examinations:

'A word processor cannot be simply granted to a candidate because he/she now wants to type rather than write in examinations or can work faster on a keyboard, or because he/she uses a laptop at home.'

Access Arrangements and Reasonable adjustments - JCQ 2020-2021

- A learning difficulty which has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to write legibly.
- A medical condition
- A physical disability
- A sensory impairment
- Planning and organisational problems when writing by hand (to be assessed)

At BHASVIC we will review requests for the use of a word processor in exams if one of the following conditions is met:

1. A medical, physical or sensory disability that confirms use of a word processor as necessary. (We require confirmation in writing by an accredited medical specialist or consultant).
2. Slow hand writing speed confirmed by an internal assessment by one of our qualified staff at BHASVIC).
3. Planning and organisational problems when writing by hand (supported by teacher evidence)
4. Illegible handwriting (Examiners are adept at deciphering poor handwriting, so it has to be extremely difficult to read, not just messy.) Proof is required from subject teachers.
5. If a student has used a word processor for their GCSE exams, we will request supporting evidence from their school and this will be considered alongside a new assessment of need.

In all cases, the use of a word processor must reflect the candidate's normal way of working within the centre and be appropriate to the candidate's needs.

The candidates will have the spell/grammar check disabled.

Please note - re: Maths - The use of a word processor in exams is for students who need to do extended writing. Unless there is a medical reason or a specific need, we do not permit the use of a word processor for Maths.

Practical Examinations

Students who do the following subjects will not qualify for extra time in the practical element of their exams or assessments for these courses:

- BTEC courses which require the performance of a practical skill or task
- Dance
- Drama and Theatre studies
- Fine Art
- Graphic Design
- Music
- Photography
- Science practicals
- Sport
- Textiles

For any further information, please refer to the college's SEND and Examinations Policies both available on the college's website.