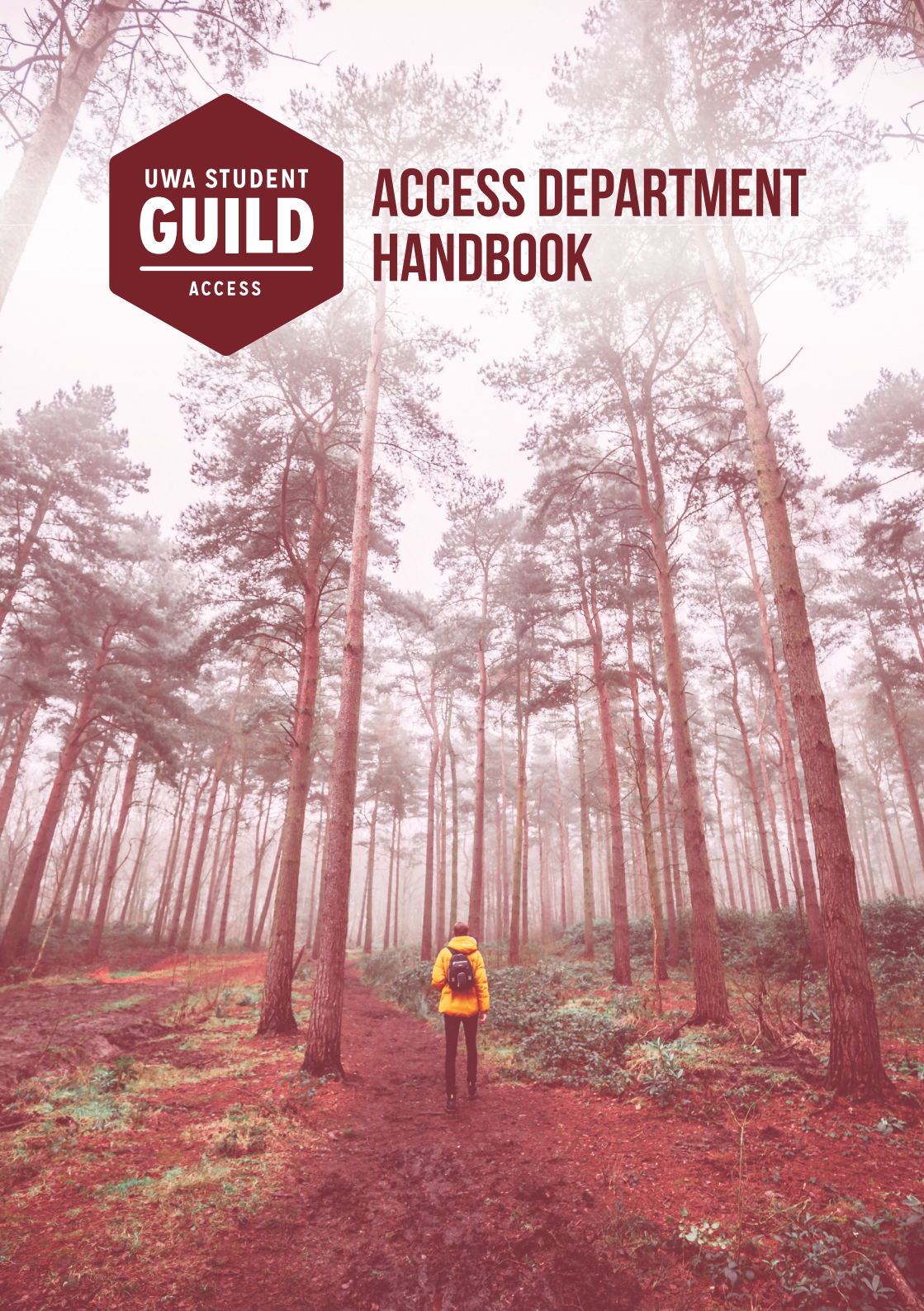




# ACCESS DEPARTMENT HANDBOOK





# ACCESS HANDBOOK

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4. Access Room
5. Department Events
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## WHAT IS ACCESS?

The UWA Student Guild Access Department exists to represent all students enrolled within the university who identify as having lived experiences with a disability, chronic illness or mental health issues, and student carers. It was established in 2016 as the peak student-run representative body for students with disabilities at UWA.

The primary aim of our department is to raise awareness towards our represented community in efforts to make our campus more inclusive and accessible. In addition to running collective groups on our Facebook pages to cater to the needs of specific communities, we collaborate across other Guild departments and clubs within the university alongside external organizations to decrease the stigma surrounding disability and mental illness on campus.

ACCESS DEPARTMENT  
OFFICERS:  
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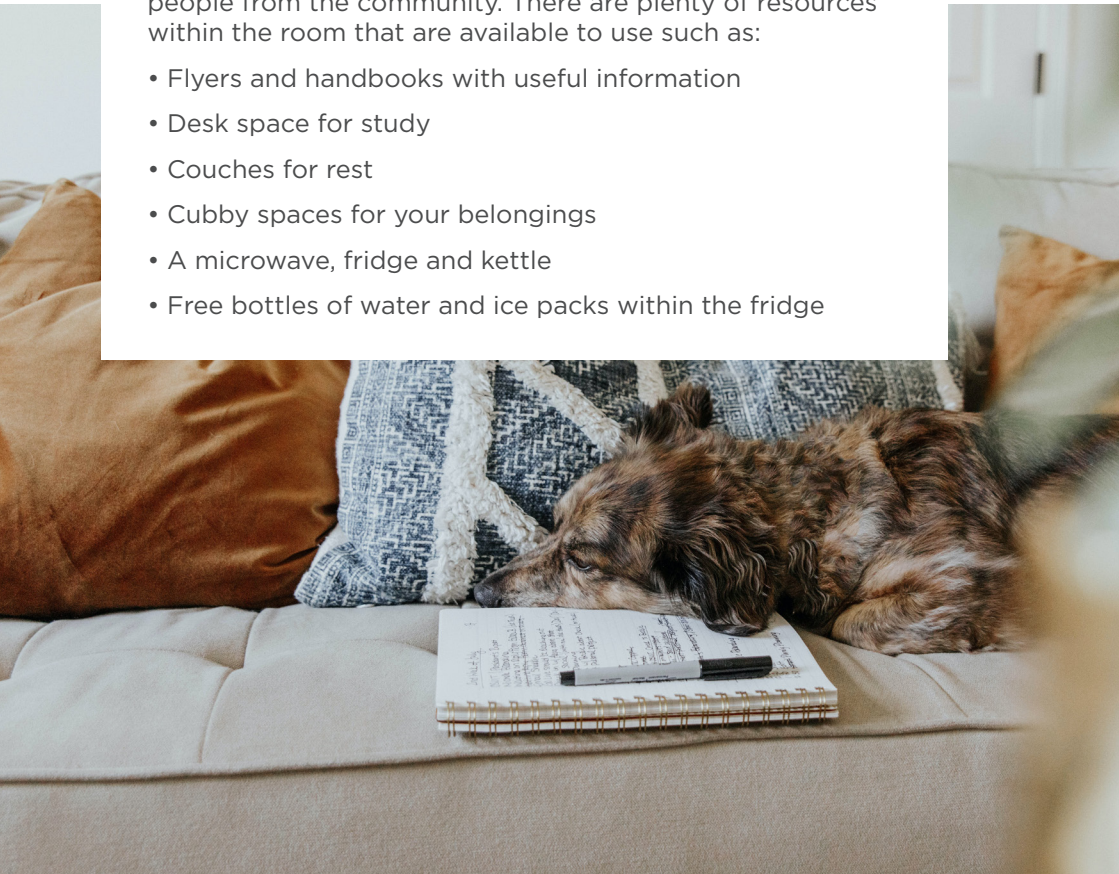




# ACCESS ROOM

Located within the Guild Village, the Access Department room is a safe space open to any student within our community during business hours within the university semester. We understand that university life can be very draining and difficult, the Access room is the perfect space for those who need time away from university life while staying on campus and is a great area to interact with other people from the community. There are plenty of resources within the room that are available to use such as:

- Flyers and handbooks with useful information
- Desk space for study
- Couches for rest
- Cubby spaces for your belongings
- A microwave, fridge and kettle
- Free bottles of water and ice packs within the fridge



# DEPARTMENT EVENTS

## COLLECTIVE MEET-UPS

Scheduled to later in the year, our Collective Meet-ups exists to allow for members within the Carers, Womens and CALD Collectives to engage in conversations relevant to their communities. It exists to give members a safe space where each and every person are invited to share their experiences and find support amongst fellow members.

## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

Throughout the year, we typically run both awareness campaigns and events related to mental health aimed to reduce the stigma related to issues related to poor mental health. Ranging from slam poetry nights to Men's Mental Health Breakfast, there are a variety of low-barrier events open to anyone interested!

## ACCESS WEEK

A jam-packed week filled with accessibility related events, Access Week aims to celebrate students within our represented communities. From volunteering sessions to round table discussions, these events are open to all students within the university to provide valuable insight from people with disabilities and carers.

## FACSOC COLLABORATIONS

To provide support towards a larger range of students on campus, the department has held collaborations with relevant faculty societies to organize a variety of events from art parties celebrating the works of our community to career development workshops.

## LIVED EXPERIENCE EVENTS

Our Lived Experience events are open to everyone with lived experiences of having disabilities or being a student carer, alongside those who want to learn more about our community. At all events, we offer a safe space for students to discuss their own individual experiences and to hear similar experiences from peers to receive support. Previous topics that have been discussed include body image, deafness and depression alongside other subjects. These campaigns are the first step in educating the general student population to help break down misconceptions of disabilities and campus to normalize students with disabilities and mental illness on campus.





# YOUR RIGHTS

Lawfully, tertiary education should be accessible to all students regardless of their social, physiological and psychological status, and cannot discriminate based on disability or medical status. Any and every student within our community is entitled to reasonable adjustments in terms of types of assessments, exam conditions and class participation that could've been affected by any of the following:

- Mental health conditions such as anxiety and depression
- Being the primary carer to someone who lives with a disability or mental health condition
- Temporary disabilities such as accidents/injuries

## SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

If your study has been adversely affected by significant circumstances outside of your control, including temporary or long-term medical conditions, you can apply for special consideration via the form available online on the UWA Student website. If approved, your student faculty office may give an extension on assignment deadlines, deferred exams, course changes or other arrangements. When submitting the form to the relevant student faculty, make sure to attach any and all supporting documentation as this would provide further evidence to substantiate your application. This is a confidential process; unit coordinators will not be informed of the reasons for which you're applying. For any queries or help needed, the university's friendly and professional Student Assist team are available on Level 1 of the Medical Centre.

Top tip: Apply as early as possible! You only have three working university days, including weekends and any public holidays, from the due date of the assessment to apply for special consideration.

## FOR TEMPORARY CONDITIONS

A medical certificate is typically required for a short-term extension or a completed special consideration form filled in by a relevant medical professional. Visit the website below for details.

[student.uwa.edu.au/course/exams/consideration](http://student.uwa.edu.au/course/exams/consideration)

## FOR LONG-TERM CONDITIONS

A Statement of Reasonable Adjustment can be attained via UniAccess. Lasting for a whole semester, this may give students adjustments ranging from different types of assessments or permission to miss classes. In the instance that a Statement of Reasonable Adjustment attained, all your unit co-ordinators will be contacted but it's highly recommended to email a copy of this to your tutors. At no point are students required to disclose any details about their conditions. For more information, see the On Campus Resources page for more information on UniAccess.





# ON CAMPUS RESOURCES

## UWA COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICE

Free for all students on campus, the friendly staff at UWA Counselling and Psychological Service are equipped and ready to help students manage personal and academic concerns and success with study. A referral from a doctor is not needed, however attendance at a drop-in triage session before booking an appointment is required.

[www.student.uwa.edu.au/counselling](http://www.student.uwa.edu.au/counselling)

6488 2423

First floor, Student Central 9am-5pm weekdays

## UNIACCESS

Focused on making education more accessible, UniAccess is a safe space to meet confidentially with highly qualified advisors to help students affected by a physical or mental health condition, issue or disability come up with effective ways to maximize their academic performance.

[uniaccess@uwa.edu.au](mailto:uniaccess@uwa.edu.au)

6488 2423

First floor, Student Central 9am-5pm weekdays



## GUILD STUDENT ASSIST

Student Assist is a confidential service on campus with a dedicated team equipped on helping students deal with issues within and outside of their university studies. Inquiries can range from referrals to free to low-cost support on and off campus to grants and interest-free loans for students experiencing financial hardship.

[assist@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:assist@guild.uwa.edu.au)

6488 2292

First floor, Guild Village 8.30am-5pm weekdays

## THE LIVING ROOM

Existing as a hub of low-barrier student-focused health and wellbeing initiatives, The Living Room allows for students to be supported in a warm environment away from campus with the company of qualified staff. Additionally, the space hosts a variety of activities ranging from weekly visits from therapy and companion dogs to mindfulness meditation sessions.

[healthpromotion@uwa.edu.au](mailto:healthpromotion@uwa.edu.au)

The Living Room, Shenton House 9am-5pm weekdays



# OFF CAMPUS RESOURCES

## MENTAL HEALTH CARE PLAN

Available from a GP. Allow you to have up to ten subsidized sessions with a qualified psychologist.

## EHEADSPACE

Provides confidential, free and secure online help for people aged 12-25 and for families of young people suffering from mental health concerns. Includes online chat help, email or phone support with a qualified youth mental health professional.

[ehespace.org.au](http://ehespace.org.au)

1800 650 890

## BEYONDBLUE SUPPORT SERVICE

24/7 support and advice via phone.

[beyondblue.org.au](http://beyondblue.org.au)

1300 22 4636

## AUTISMWEST

Runs a variety of social groups and events for individuals on the autism spectrum, their families and healthcare providers.

[autismwest.org.au](http://autismwest.org.au)

9431 2111

## WA DEAF SOCIETY

The primary advocacy and support body in Western Australia for people who are Deaf. Provides Auslan classes, interpreters and a support and referral service for people who are Deaf or hard-of-hearing.

[wadeaf.org.au](http://wadeaf.org.au)

9441 2677

## YOUTH DISABILITY ADVOCACY NETWORK

An advocacy group for young people aged 12 to 25 living with a disability in Western Australia. [ydan.com.au](http://ydan.com.au)

## HEALTH CONSUMERS' COUNCIL

A free service to help you navigate the health system and understand healthcare rights. The advocates can help you find and access health services and assist you in providing feedback about your health experience.

[hconc.org.au](http://hconc.org.au)

1800 620 780

## YOUTH FOCUS

A free program offering appointments with a trained mental health professional for youth (aged 12-25). No paperwork or referral required.

[youthfocus.com.au](http://youthfocus.com.au)

6266 4333

## LIFELINE

Lifeline provides 24/7 phone and online crisis counselling with a qualified mental health worker.

13 11 14

## EMERGENCY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

24/7 support for emergency mental health concerns for individuals, families or carers of those with a mental illness. (Not a replacement for calling 000 in a medical emergency.)

1300 555 788 (Perth metro area) or 1800 676 822 (Peel region and rural areas)

## SUICIDE CALL BACK SERVICE

Free counselling 24/7 for people 15 years and older. Provides immediate telephone counselling and support, with up to six further telephone counselling sessions with the same counsellor.

[suicidecallbackservice.org.au](http://suicidecallbackservice.org.au)

1300 659 467





[access@guild.uwa.edu.au](mailto:access@guild.uwa.edu.au)



08 6488 3773



[uwastudentguild.com](http://uwastudentguild.com)



[@uwastudentguild\\_access](https://www.instagram.com/uwastudentguild_access)



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