

Harper Adams eLearning Accessibility Statement

Context

Harper Adams University College is committed to the development of on-line learning content, resources and tools for all of its students, both on and off campus. It is the policy of Harper Adams University College to provide full accessibility to all, regardless of special needs requirement.

Browser based e-Learning resources are mainly delivered via our Open Source virtual learning environment (VLE) **HarperMoodle** and WebCMS-based systems as in the case of the **Virtual Farm** and other Web-based interfaces such as the **Photo Gallery** and **Video Repository**.

Harper Adams University College aims to make both inclusive and reasonable adjustments so that all learning resources are accessible to all users, including those with visual impairments (colour blindness, partially sightedness or full blindness), those with dyslexia or lack of certain motor control skills.

People with disabilities will be provided with various software-based assistive technologies such as screen readers, text-to-speech conversion tools and voice recognition software, and alternative input devices for mice/keyboards where appropriate.

Web based e-Learning content is made accessible to all users largely based on the [Moodle Accessibility Specification](#) and the Harper Adams [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy for Students with Disabilities and Guidance for Staff, students and Applicants](#)

Monitoring

The e-Learning department is constantly reviewing and revising all resources held on the VLE to ensure compliance with [SENDA standards](#) and aims to convert most resources to HTML, Adobe Acrobat (pdf) or in the case of media into flash based formats. We are using style sheets to control layout and style and users with newer browser versions (IE7 and Firefox 2.0 and 3.0) will be able to print a version formatted for printing directly from the browser. The [Web Accessibility Initiative](#) provides links to relevant policies and documents whilst the JISC funded [TechDis](#) provides more detailed information of disability and special needs support, including a range of software under the 'Accessibility Apps' umbrella.

It is our aim to ensure all new eLearning resources conform to ideally the [Web Content Accessibility Guidelines](#) 2.0 (2008). We will be utilising tools such as the [Web Accessibility Initiative](#) to check our content against current standards (if accessible behind the firewall) and we will also make use of relevant Web-sites such as [Disabled World](#).

Furthermore, we are also employing Web usability design rules to ensure e-Learning materials are both accessible as standard and usable by design. We will be working towards including methods for user customisation of the online learning environment and making provision for individual learning styles where possible. By adopting user centred design principles, we will be able to deliver resources tailored for the exact needs of our students.

Additional Resources

Other guidelines and policies we are referencing are as follows:

- Harper Adams' [Learning, Teaching and Assessment Policy for Students with Disabilities and Guidance for Staff, Students and Applicants](#) providing further information concerning assistive technology and software available for use by disabled students.
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act \(2001\)](#) detailing "not to treat disabled students less favourably, without justification, for a reason which relates to their disability" and "to make reasonable adjustments to ensure that people who are disabled are not put at a substantial disadvantage compared to people who are not disabled in accessing Further, Higher and Local Education Authority-secured education."
- The [Disability Discrimination Act](#) (DDA 2004) stating that "service providers have to make 'reasonable adjustments' for disabled people, such as providing extra help or making changes to the way they provide their services".