

Fulbright Foreign Student Program

Disability Accommodations - Candidate Resource

Provided with information from Mobility International USA (MIUSA):

<https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/collegeaccessibility/>

U.S. universities are responsible for making their courses, campus, activities and services accessible to people with disabilities. This includes physical access to college buildings, transportation, housing, and other facilities. Schools are also required to provide reasonable accommodations and services so students with disabilities can access their education. This includes classes, tests, and school-sponsored events and activities.

What is a “reasonable accommodation”?

The term “reasonable accommodation” refers to the various kinds of modifications that may need to be made so that people with disabilities have the same opportunities as people without disabilities to access and enjoy services in their communities.

University Offices and Resources

- Most universities have on-campus resources or offices that provide services for students, scholars, and staff with disabilities, regardless of citizenship. It is extremely important to begin communicating with university offices to make necessary arrangements **as early as possible**. One of the most important offices to contact is the university’s **Disability Services or Accessibility office**, which will provide information about:
 - Accessible on-campus classrooms, labs, libraries, cafeterias, housing, and mobility and transportation.
 - How to request disability-related accommodations, such as sign language interpreters, note takers, readers, alternative formats, quiet space for testing, additional time for assignments and testing, etc.
 - How to access and use assistive technology, adaptive equipment, or software.
 - Adaptive sports, recreation, and other on-campus activities.
 - How to seek counseling services for stress, anxiety or depression, or tutoring services for learning challenges.
 - How to join clubs or support groups for students with disabilities and their allies.
 - Academic advising and consultations on instructional, attitudinal, or physical barriers.
 - Disability documentation – universities often request this from students who request disability-related accommodations.
 - Referrals for community services they may not provide such as personal assistants, sighted guides, technology training, or personal aids/equipment.
- You should also connect with the following offices as early as possible:
 - Housing or Residential Life office, if applicable
 - Office of International Students and Scholars
 - The academic department where you will have the majority of your classes/research

Planning and Preparations

You will need to make the following arrangements:

- Flight and travel disability-related services and accommodations. Call the airline directly to ensure accommodations will be provided.
- Housing arrangements. It is extremely helpful for students with disabilities to have housing on-campus or close to campus for convenience and availability of extra supports, but graduate student housing is often limited and reaches capacity quickly. Contact the university's Housing or Residential Life office for guidance. Sometimes reasonable accommodations beyond the Fair Housing Act are available, such as extra housing for a personal attendant at no cost.
- Transportation between airport of arrival and host institution. The university's Office of International Students and Scholars will likely have resources or options for arranging airport pickups.
- Obtain smartphone and laptop with necessary accessibility tools and assistive technology. The university's Disability Services or Accessibility office could provide advice on what types of devices or technology should be obtained.
- Academic accommodations. Work with the university's Disability Services office to determine and request reasonable accommodations for courses and assignments.

Helpful Websites:

General information on disability and accessibility:

- Study at a U.S. College or University: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/study/>
- Accessibility at U.S. Colleges and Universities: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/collegeaccessibility/>
- "I Got In! Now What?": Preparing for Study in the U.S.: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/prepareforstudy/>
- Preparing to Go Abroad with a Disability: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/prep-your-disability/>

Educational testing:

- Disability Accommodations for the TOEFL, GRE and Other ETS Tests: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/testaccommodations/>

Deaf and hearing impairment resources:

- Language Considerations for Deaf Students Studying in the U.S.: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/language-considerations-for-deaf-students-studying-in-the-u-s/>
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing Accommodations: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/deafaccommodations/>

Blind and low-vision resources:

- Assistive Technology for Blind or Low Vision Participants: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/assistivetechforblind/>

- How to Be Independent in the U.S. as a Blind Visitor: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/blindindependence/>

Physical disability resources:

- Preparations for Travel with a Physical Disability: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/physicaldisability/>
- Using Personal Assistance Services Abroad: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/personalassistant/>
- Transferring Tips for Air Travel: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/airplanetransfers/>

Learning disability resources:

- Accommodations for Non-Native English Speakers: <https://www.miusa.org/resource/tip-sheets/eslaccommodations/>

Visit MIUSA's website for additional information and resources: <https://www.miusa.org/coming-to-the-usa/>