

Fact sheet 4

Top Ten Tips for Holding Inclusive Social Events

University is not just about learning! Getting the most from university is also about joining in the many social events and clubs, having fun, and making new friends. But research shows that students with disabilities often miss out on many of the social and extra-curricular activities on offer.

Making sure the events you hold are accessible is important so that everyone can participate and get the most from their university experience.

1. **Embrace diversity:** Create events and opportunities that include everyone, and encourage everyone to participate by marketing your event to diverse groups of students.
2. **Promote your event:** Promote your event in a range of formats – eg online as well as via posters. Aim to ensure your website, social media and digital materials are fully accessible.
3. **Space:** Make sure the space is physically accessible (eg can be accessed without stairs and has accessible toilets).
4. **Publicise Accessibility:** eg wheelchair accessibility for the event - the more information you provide beforehand, the more people can participate. Let people know who to contact about access requirements, be open to being contacted, and ensure any arrangements are made.
5. **Travel:** Allow for public and accessible transport and parking.
6. **Food or drink:** Provide a range of options to accommodate different dietary requirements.

7. **Alcohol:** Keep in mind that some people don't drink alcohol or don't feel safe around it.
8. **Support:** Accommodate for the attendance of support workers at events.
9. **Price:** Make events financially accessible – offer free or discounted tickets wherever possible - to ensure equal access.
10. **Timing:** Remember that many students have work and family commitments so try to schedule events at a range of different times so everyone has a chance to participate.