

# POLICY PROPOSAL

Policy number 2016/17-1  
Passed 8th December 2016 at policy round

TITLE: ACCESSIBLE WEB CONTENT

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SECONDED BY: SOPHIE LINGFIELD/ENABLE COMMITTEE

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## INTRODUCTION

University of Bath websites including Moodle, SAMIS and BathStudent should be equally accessible to all students at the University. The current designs of these websites can make them difficult to use for some students and staff with disabilities, including visual impairment, colour-blindness, dyslexia, and autism. Enable, the Diversity and Support Group for disabled students, believe that all necessary steps should be taken to ensure the University's online resources are as easy to use as possible, for all students, regardless of their disability.

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## REASON FOR CHANGE

Considering ....

1. The University is required to provide equal access to resources for all students, regardless of any disability
2. Current University websites do not adhere to best practice guidelines for accessible website design
3. There are students at the University who have a disability or impairment that impacts their ability to use our online resources as they currently stand

Bath Students' Union recognises that ...

1. What is best for one student in terms of accessibility may not be best for another student.
2. Customisable accessibility options for the University's websites are either non-existent or difficult to use.
3. Until changes are made to allow disabled students equal access, they are being put at a disadvantage compared to their peers and are less able to use the University's learning services such as Moodle.

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## THE PROPOSAL

Bath Students' Union will ...

1. Collaborate with current students representing a range of disabilities, offering multiple ways for students to get involved and share their opinions. This may include focus groups,

trials of new ideas, and communication via student disability services and the Disabled Students' Diversity & Support group (Enable).

2. Build a set of "good practice guidelines" for producing accessible web content which meets the needs of all its students. This may be based on current guidelines, for example: <https://accessibility.blog.gov.uk/2016/09/02/dos-and-donts-on-designing-for-accessibility/>

3. Apply these guidelines to the layout for BathStudent, and work towards encouraging the University's other web content to consider these guidelines. Accessibility options on BathStudent should be made available and easy to find, and should be customisable to suit the diverse needs of the student base.

4. Recommend relevant best practices to staff at the University who are responsible for updating online web content. Where SU officers & members are involved in updating University web content, they will bring forward the good practice document as part of their recommendations for change. The SU will regularly review the extent to which these guidelines are followed, and whether this has successfully addressed accessibility issues as intended.