

Written, time-limited exams replaced by coursework

Student with communication difficulties unable to write at speed



The DEMOS project (Manchester group of universities)

Available from: <http://jarmin.com/demos/course/assessment/case.html>

Original assessment method

Standard written timed examinations.

Skills assessed

Knowledge of curriculum.

What barriers does the student face in completing this assessment?

Student was unable to write at any great speed therefore timed examinations were out of the question. Vivas were also not an option as the student's speech was very difficult to understand. A scribe was also not a solution because of communication difficulties.

How was the assessment method altered?

Student was given coursework instead of examinations.

In total the student was assessed over the year on ten pieces of coursework.

Further notes

Although the student was given unlimited time to complete the assignments she was tutored to develop and abide by a timetable so that work did not pile up.

The course team were not worried about plagiarism or collusion with other students as the student found it very difficult to communicate with others in the course. Indeed this lack of communication was of some concern to course staff because the student was often isolated from her peer group.