

Policy Proposal: Disability Discrimination

Submitted by Belfast Metropolitan College Student

What are the issues?

Across all institutions there are at least 25%* of students with disabilities facing discrimination with regards to their disability every day. 38%* of those students have said they have been bullied because of their disabilities, and a few even say it is their tutor/teacher/lecture that are doing this.

It is our belief that those with disabilities should not be treated differently. Their education should be accessible with the necessary arrangements put in place to make sure it is.

What could be the solutions?

Students with disabilities can often feel isolated if these accommodations are not in place appropriately. This means ensuring tutors, lecturers and teachers undergo training to better understand how students with disabilities experience education. It also means ensuring awareness of students with disabilities and appropriate mechanisms are in place to ensure students are able to feedback issues they experience.

We also believe that the discrimination act in Northern Ireland needs to be reformed in coalition with disability activists and students so that it is fair. We support the implementation of a NI Bill of Rights that includes the rights of disabled people.