**Tip sheets for students**

**Blindness and low vision**.

The purpose of this resource is to provide assistance to students studying or

planning on studying Tertiary Education at Swinburne University.

* **Preparing for study**
* Contact Vision Australia’s Tertiary vocational consultant Belinda Wilson for guidance relating to Tertiary studies. Contact details can be found below.

Belinda Wilson,

Vocational Consultant

Email: bursary@visionaustralia.org

Telephone: 1300 84 74 66.

* Contact other students to gain a detailed understanding on their experiences and tips to completing their tertiary education. Max Bini will be able to provide you with contact details of the most appropriate person.
* You must ensure that you have an adequate ability in operating various types of adaptive technology. If you are unsure, please don’t hesitate to Contact Vision Australia. They will be able to assess your adaptive technology skills and give you recommendations on whether you will be able to complete the requirements at University. Adaptive technology classes are offered at Vision Australia.
* Please ensure that you have an adequate level of orientation and mobility training. This will be essential to help with getting to and around the campus. Swinburne does not provide orientation and mobility training. It would be advisable to contact Vision Australia as they can provide this service.
* Ensure that you are in a good mental state as tertiary education can be quite challenging at times.
* **Before you start the course**
* Contact the AccessAbility Services to discuss your personal needs. Please disclose all information relating to your condition so the AccessAbility Adviser can carefully communicate your requirements to academic staff. Contact details can be found below.
* Be prepared that you will have to make other students in your class aware of your condition. Especially for group assignments.
* Make yourself aware of the adaptive technologies available to use at Swinburne University. Further information can be found in the technology resources section:

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/stuserv/disability/adaptive.html>

* Enquire about whether you are eligible for any scholarships.

<http://www.swinburne.edu.au/study/courses/scholarships/>

* Start any reading before the semester if possible: success is all about preparation
* Get familiar with getting to and around the campus
* Preparation is the key allow time for assessment tasks it may take longer due to the need for formatting
* Attend lectures and tutorials
* Meet lecturers and tutors and discuss needs
* Be familiar with the layout of the lecture room and tutorial, establish the best seating arrangements
* Ask for all material to be presented electronically and discuss your preferred format
* Ask for alternatives format if visuals are being used ( e.g. diagram or tables)
* Ask lecturers or convenors to be specific in pages numbers or chapters which are deemed to be important
* Break tasks in reasonable time gaps to avoid eye fatigue
* Discuss exams arrangements with the AccessAbility Adviser
* Choose an appropriate work load.

**Contact details:**

AccessAbility Services

Swinburne University of Technology, H22, PO Box 218 Hawthorn VIC 3122

Phone: 03 9214 8483

Email: accessability@swin.edu.au

Web: <http://www.swinburne.edu.au/accessability>