Dyspraxia (Developmental Co-Ordination Disorder)

What is Dyspraxia?

- Dyspraxia causes difficulties in motor coordination, orientation, concentration and short-term memory.
- There may also be difficulties with time management, organisation and fatigue.
- Learning difficulties such as difficulties with handwriting, mathematics, reading and writing and personal organisation and sequencing may also be affected.

Students with Dyspraxia may experience one or more of the following difficulties:

- Very poor handwriting, possible use of laptop
- Meeting deadlines and organising his work.
- Difficulties with hand-eye coordination, e.g., at a younger age had a lot of difficulty catching a ball, opening locks, doors and windows etc.
- Difficulty with taking notes during lectures
- Difficulties with mathematics in particular subtraction, long multiplication and division.
- Difficulties with concentration and lapses of attention
- Remembering and following instructions / directions

What can Lecturing Staff do to support these Students?

- Allow use of Assistive Technology to take notes in the lecture hall (i.e. laptop, recording devices)
- Use a wide range of teaching methods/materials to increase accessibility for all students
- Provide learning aims at the beginning of each lecture—highlight the main argument and the key points.
- Assignment topics should be provided early to help student’s meet deadlines on time.
- All lecture/tutorial/lab notes / slides / handouts should ideally be available in an electronic format in advance of the lecture. This will decrease the amount of writing a student has to do during the lecture and will allow the student to scan the text when using literacy support software.
- Introduce new topics and concepts obviously – clarify new language.
- Try be sympathetic with regards to punctuality and general organisation.
- Students may require extra time to complete assignments.
- When giving instructions about assignments, simple language can be useful.
- Presenting sample answers to the class and individual feedback for assignments can be helpful.
- Rest breaks may be needed during long classes which require note taking.

Useful Websites:  
www.dyspraxiaireland.com  
www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk