Autism is a lifelong developmental condition that affects how a person communicates with, and relates to, other people. It also affects how they make sense of the world around them. It is a spectrum condition so it affects individuals in different ways. All people with autism share three main areas of difficulty:

- **Social interaction** – recognising and understanding own and others’ feelings, and understanding how to interact with others and form friendships
- **Social communication** – using and understanding verbal and non-verbal language
- **Social imagination** – understanding and predicting others’ intentions and behaviour, and imagining situations outside of own routine

**Characteristics of Autism** include:

- Need for routine and difficulty adapting to change
- Adherence to rules
- Sensory processing issues/ sensory sensitivity
- Special interests

Many people on the autism spectrum have significant strengths such as high attention to detail, increased levels of accuracy and reliability, an excellent memory for facts and figures, creative talent, and the ability to thrive in a structured, well-organised work environment. Some individuals with autism do not consider autism to be a disability but a neurological difference.

**UWE Library**

- Murray, S. (2011). *Autism* [Full text online]

**Further reading**

- Simone, R. (2010) *Asperger's on the Job*

Please be advised that UWE cannot guarantee the validity of these resources although they are checked at time of publication.
UWE Wellbeing Service
Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Asperger Syndrome

Articles

- Interesting article from the Guardian about University life as a student with Autism http://tinyurl.com/pkbn4ov

Websites

- Asperclick – Forum set up by ambitious teenagers with Autism to help and support others affected by autistic spectrum disorders http://asperclick.com/
- Aspergers and ASD UK – online forum for people with Asperger’s and Autistic spectrum disorders http://www.asd-forum.org.uk/forum/
- The National Autistic Society - the leading UK charity for people with autism (including Asperger syndrome) and their families http://www.autism.org.uk/
- Wrong Planet – Forums, news, and therapy services for people with Autism http://wrongplanet.net/

Local Organisations

BASS Autism Services for Adults - BASS runs on a service (groups and individual sessions) on a Friday 12.30pm-4.30pm at the Create Centre in Bristol http://tinyurl.com/hvn7tbl
- help people with (ASCs) access a range of services and opportunities that suit them
- offer one to one support to people with ASCs
- offer a variety of groups for people with ASCs to attend
- provide a safe place where people with ASCs can meet & share their experiences

Bristol Asperger Adult Social Group - A social group for adults that meets in a pub in Bristol, usually on the second Tuesday in each month from 7.30-9.30pm. andrew.powell@nas.org.uk


Further support at UWE

The Disability Service can discuss getting support such as reasonable adjustments and Disabled Students’ Allowance: https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview http://tinyurl.com/hr8faak

Complete the online enquiry form or book an appointment via an InfoPoint on campus: http://www1.uwe.ac.uk/students/studysupport/disabilityservices/contactdisabilityservices.aspx

Please be advised that UWE cannot guarantee the validity of these resources although they are checked at time of publication
Asperger's syndrome is now included within the autism spectrum, and so the professional opinion (obviously) is that there is much in common we all share. It is a good thing that aspies had a few years of being free of the main autism genus category, and established the notion of self advocacy by those of us who clearly fit within an easily recognised shared profile. AS and ASC is quite appropriate for the time being, until such time as neuroscience is able to furnish a viable neurmedical profession the tools to make accurate assessments by more objective means. It is only then that science will show us how the different conditions will be shown to be alike, or different. Asperger's & Autism Forum. Home Forums > Autism Spectrum Discussions > General Autism Discussion >. Welcome to Autism Forums, a friendly forum to discuss Aspergers Syndrome, Autism, High Functioning Autism and related conditions. Your voice is missing! You will need to register to get access to the following site features