

## Criteria for Inclusion on Dyslexia Scotland's list of Assessors

- **QUALIFICATIONS** – If you are a 'SpLD/Dyslexia Specialist' we would expect you to hold an approved Post Graduate Level 7 qualification in SpLDs/Dyslexia. The course related to your qualification should include a substantial number of hours learning about how to administer and analyse standardised assessments. Courses, which meet the criteria for the AMBDA or Assessment Practising Certificate (APC) awards will usually meet our qualification requirements.
- If you are unsure if your qualification meets our criteria, we would ask that you contact the educational institution you attended. Obtain confirmation of the level of the course (e.g. Level 7) and obtain details about the content, with particular attention to the number of hours/time spent on assessment training. If you can provide us with that information, and confirmation that your qualification meets the criteria, we can then consider a request to join our list.
- We happily accept different classifications of Psychologists on our list e.g. Educational, Clinical, Occupational.
- **PROFESSIONAL BODIES** - Many professions have a professional body e.g. teachers are members of General Teaching Council for Scotland. For Assessors, we do expect you to be a member of a professional body which can help you keep up-to-date with assessment practice and offer you many free resources and advice. For SpLD/Dyslexia Specialists this would be The Dyslexia Guild or the Professional Association for Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties (PATOSS) or the British Dyslexia Association. If you are not a member of a professional body and/or do not maintain your membership, you will be removed from our list.
- For Psychologists, we would expect you to be a current member of HCPC.
- **C.V. AND REPORTS** - If it has been over 5 years since you obtained your specialist qualification, Dyslexia Scotland would like to see your C.V. This should include details about how you have kept your assessment practice current and relevant. We also require anonymised assessment reports for the age groups that you plan to assess. This applies to both Dyslexia Specialists and Psychologists.

- **ASSESSMENT REPORTS** – The SpLD Assessment Standards Committee (SASC) has produced two report proforma; FINAL Pre-16 Diagnostic Assessment Report Format-Word and FINAL Post-16 Diagnostic Assessment Report Format-Word. Dyslexia Scotland would encourage SpLD/Dyslexia Specialists to use these templates to produce reports in a recognised and standardised way. You can download them from the SASC website: <https://www.sasc.org.uk/Downloads.aspx>. This is mainly aimed at Dyslexia Specialists but Psychologists may also find the formats of interest/use too.
- **KEEPING IT CONTEXTUAL AND HOLISTIC** – It is important to consider that carrying out standardised assessments on their own may not provide a fully holistic or contextualised assessment. Therefore, Dyslexia Scotland encourages all Assessors to engage with clients' other social environments e.g. the school, their college, the workplace, their life. Collaborating with these establishments, where they are willing to do so, can only add to the wealth of information gathered to make a robust identification of dyslexia. You will find that the report proforma allows for the collection of this more qualitative information.
- **TESTING MATERIALS** – SASC has provided two new list of recommended valid and reliable assessments tools; one for use with Pre-16 year olds and one for Post-16. These can be found on the SASC website: <https://www.sasc.org.uk/Downloads.aspx> These lists should be read in conjunction with other supporting documents e.g., identifying dyscalculia or dyspraxia. You will find this guidance on the SASC downloads page. If you do not use these assessment tools, then you would not meet the criteria to join Dyslexia Scotland's list. This is specifically for Dyslexia Specialists.
- **INSURANCE** - A very important aspect of assessing people! You should have adequate insurance cover in place. If you don't have any specific insurance in place, your professional body can generally offer you preferential rates. This applies to both Dyslexia Specialists and Psychologists.
- **P.V.G.** – You should ensure you have a current PVG covering the age groups with whom you intend to work. This is not just for their protection, but yours too. This applies to both Dyslexia Specialists and Psychologists.
- **SCOTTISH-BASED** – Dyslexia Scotland prefers that assessors are based in Scotland and have a thorough understanding of the Scottish education system, specifically in reference to those planning to assess school children/young people. Alternatively, if you reside outside Scotland and can demonstrate the knowledge and understanding required and within your reports, your application can still go forward.

If you want to learn more about identification, assessment, support and monitoring of literacy/dyslexia in Scotland's schools, as well as sign up for Dyslexia Scotland 3 free modules you can find more information here: <http://addressingdyslexia.org>.