



# WPI

Office of Disability Services  
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508-831-4908, Fax 508-831-5139  
[www.wpi.edu/+disabilities](http://www.wpi.edu/+disabilities)

TO: IGSD Faculty Advisors 13/14

SUBJECT: Accommodation letters for 2013/14 project centers, PQP and ID2050

Good morning WPI faculty!

I am writing to tell you about a new collaborative initiative between the Office of Disability Services (ODS) and Interdisciplinary and Global Studies Division (IGSD).

We have found that many students do not disclose a disability or need for accommodations to their project instructors and advisors because they expect their accommodations won't apply. While this is true in the case of something like extended time when there are not formal exams, the reason a student has an academic accommodation (their functional limitation) may factor into other aspects of a course they don't expect like group dynamics, meeting deadlines, self-directed research, etc.

We are encouraging students to engage in this conversation with you through the mechanism of their traditional accommodation letters (please see the email that went out to students participating in projects for 2013/14). If you have taught an on-campus course, you have likely encountered an accommodation letter listing the academic accommodations for which a student is eligible. If you are not familiar, please visit our faculty page to learn more: <http://www.wpi.edu/offices/disabilities/accommletters.html>

We have found that many issues that arise for students with disabilities in project centers could have been avoided with a simple, explicit conversation early on. Students who do disclose, even when their approved accommodations don't directly apply, are able to connect with their instructors and advisors in meaningful ways that often benefit the whole project team. As we gain experience working with you to support students with disabilities in projects and prep terms, we will develop more resources specific to the project context. In the meantime, as we encourage students to disclose and present their accommodation letters to you, please reach out to Anne Ogilvie, Laura Rosen, or myself to discuss questions and concerns.

Your friends at IGSD and ODS

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TO: IGSD Students 13/14  
CC: IGSD Faculty Advisors 13/14  
SUBJECT: Accommodation letters for 2013/14 project centers, PQP and ID2050

Have you thought about how your accommodations might apply to your IQP, MQP or preparatory terms? Many students assume that their academic or housing-based accommodations won't apply to their project centers, ID 2050 or PQP courses because they do not expect to have exams or live in a residence hall...

HOWEVER, did you know that students who have used their accommodation letters to disclose to their IGSD advisors and professors report experiencing an increased connection with their advisors and professors and have a higher sense of ability to contribute to their group? It's a great opportunity to start the conversation about group dynamics and how your strengths and functional limitations might (or might not) apply to the project or group work!

When you pick up Accommodation Letters this year, strongly consider getting letters for ID 2050, PQP, IQP, MQP or HUA courses and projects. We hope you will find that disclosure can lead to great opportunities in communication with your advisors/faculty and group members. As always, ODS staff are here to consult with you on how your accommodations and functional limitations might apply to a given course. To schedule an appointment, please call 508.831.4908.

Good luck on your projects this year!  
IGSD and ODS

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