

Are you Dyslexic: Never Give Up

At the end of December 2018, I assessed Georgia. Most of her wanted to know if she was dyslexic but part of her was worried that she might just be "dumb" as she had grown up being led to believe this at times.

Talking to Georgia, it was obvious that she was a bright and intelligent person and the assessment proved this. Her problem was that her inherent weaknesses had prevented her from following her chosen career choices because of timed testing and psychometric testing during interviews and entrance tests. At the time she had been doing some presentations in secondary schools and working as a labourer for a horticulturalist.

After talking to her about how to overcome her difficulties and explaining why she was experiencing these difficulties plus sending her the assessment report and recommendations she decided to apply to university in Melbourne to complete I masters in teaching.

This is an email I received from her after her first Semester:

Hi Karen,

Just thought I'd let you know that I finished my first semester of my masters of teaching course at Melbourne Uni and I've enjoyed it a lot.

I completed my first round of placement and I loved it! The kids were really good, I didn't know how to spell a word I wanted to write on the board and my year 9s helped me out and they were really awesome about it. I draw cartoons about famous artists on the board and they think it's a lot better than having to copy down notes.

In terms of Melbourne Uni and their support, to be honest, I didn't feel the need to access anything. I did get an academic adjustment plan but I didn't use the formal accommodations on there because well, up until this point I've had to work things out on my own anyway. The only real change I've made is getting my computer to read all my readings out to me which has made a massive difference. I proof-read that way now too. Other than that, if I'm not sure about something I'll e-mail my tutors directly or have a chat after class. Everyone's been really supportive, one of my tutors has a son who is dyslexic and she's been really kind and understanding. The uni seem to be very considerate and understanding of people's needs and I know a fair amount of people have had extensions and additional help etc. So if you see anyone who is thinking of going there, I'd say definitely give it a shot!

I've been transparent with other people in my classes at uni and now people are asking me how they can accommodate dyslexic students in their classes/ lessons so I tell them about some of the things that worked for me and refer them to internet resources etc. I think it's really great that my friends at uni are taking the time to find out about dyslexia and I know that their students will benefit as a result.

Thanks once again for assessing me, it was one of the best things that happened to me for sure.

Georgia

