

From Assistive Technologies to the Metaverse – Technologies to Support Students with Specific Learning Difficulties in Inclusive Higher Education

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Abstract. The number of students in higher education with a known disability continues to increase, with the most common type reported to be ‘specific learning difficulties’ – including dyslexia, dyspraxia and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity DisorderAD(H)D (Hubble and Boulton, 2021). An Inclusive Education Toolkit developed in the DiversAsia Capacity Building in Higher Education project to enable students with disabilities to enjoy the same access to Higher Education as their peers and enjoy access to inclusively designed digital training materials will be introduced. Recent reports have also identified a range of important developments in Educational Technology for use in Higher Education in the near, mid and longer term future, and these include AI, XR, IoT, digital twins, and the Metaverse. A range of current projects utilising such technologies and their potential to create increasingly inclusive higher education will be demonstrated, along with a range of related challenges and a roadmap to adoption.