

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC)

Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Accessibility Statement

In partnership with the



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01. Introduction

Southern Universities Purchasing Consortium (SUPC) recognises its members have a legal requirement (under the Equality Act 2010) to make systems and services accessible to all users and, on their behalf, we are committed to working with industry, our members and the wider public sector to improve the accessibility of digital products and services relevant to the Higher Education (HE) sector.

02. Key Statement

SUPC aim to work in partnership with other industry organisations such as the Government Digital Service (GDS), JISC, the University of Kent, our members and our sister consortia to embed accessibility into its procurement processes to improve the accessibility of digital products and services for the Higher Education and Further Education Sector.

03. Key Objectives

SUPC, aims to achieve this by:

- Complying with all UK and EU statutory regulations and legislation that is applicable to this policy and ensuring our members do the same.
- To work in partnership with industry organisations to achieve common goals.
- Lead on developing and deploying a standard tool-kit for our members and suppliers, which will include the following:
 - Guidance for members and other procurement staff across the sector.
 - A standard suite of questions that members can use to embed into their own procurement documentation.
 - Guidance for suppliers to support the development of a common approach to accessibility.
- Training which supports the above tool-kit.
- We will engage and support suppliers and industry organisations to understand the needs of our users and work with them to improve the accessibility of products and services.

04. Accessibility/Inclusive Products and Services

An accessible/inclusive product or service is one that can be used by all its intended users. Products that have been designed inclusively will be readily adaptable to the different requirements of a wide range of users and the technologies they will be using.

This Statement focusses on digital products and services, which include but is not limited to:

- Systems
- Websites
- Applications

- Digital Resources (e.g. eBooks, eJournals, databases)

05. Standards

The government accessibility requirements for digital services are to:

- meet level AA of the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG 2.1) as a minimum
- work on the most commonly used assistive technologies - including screen magnifiers, screen readers and speech recognition tools
- include people with disabilities in user research

In addition we recognise that BS8878:2010 and EN 301 549 (EU public sector accessibility directive) are relevant to ICT procurement activity.

06. Continual Improvement

SUPC endeavours to continually improve its procurement performance to ensure all relevant statements, policies, guidance and training are reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

We actively invite feedback from all stakeholders to improve the guidance included in this Statement.

To provide feedback contact Tammie Purdue at t.purdue@reading.ac.uk