

# What is Differentiation?

**ProtocolNational**  
Leaders in FE Recruitment Process Outsourcing



**Differentiation is the process of differentiating i.e. identifying the different needs of individual learners within a group of learners.**

Individual learners will have different preferred learning styles, react differently to teaching styles etc. The differentiation might also be required to meet a specific disability or impairment.

Whatever the needs of the learner the tutor should be aware of it, either through initial assessment or from information passed to them by course coordinators etc, and plan appropriately.

During the lesson there should be clear evidence of individual learners' needs being met e.g. regular checks on individual learner understanding and progress, coaching and encouragement of less able learners, specific learning materials designed to meet individual learner needs, extension exercises for more able learners etc.

The differentiation might include:

- Adaptation of materials
- Adaptation of equipment
- Room layout alterations
- Specific seating of a particular learner
- Additional support worker involvement
- Extension exercises for more able learners

It is important that the differentiation is indicated on the lesson plan to show that the tutor has an awareness of the individual needs of the learners and has planned for these to be met.

It also ensures that the relevant resources required can be in place for the learner/s to receive a good learning experience. It is also essential information to other tutors if they have to cover classes.