



The Higher Education Choices of Students with Asperger Syndrome

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Asperger syndrome (AS) is an autistic spectrum disorder and every year increasing number of students with the syndrome register for third level education. A person who has been diagnosed as having AS is considered to be at the higher functioning end of the spectrum, however they can have difficulty with social interaction and can experience high levels of stress and anxiety. These difficulties can create learning barriers and mar the satisfaction of their education experience.

People with AS are usually of average or above average intelligence but can often find it hard to think in abstract ways and are frequently therefore drawn to STEM subjects where the curriculum content can be objective rather than subjective. As students they tend to have a deep interest in their chosen field of study and usually spend more time than their peers working on coursework and assignments.

This paper will investigate the academic subjects that students with AS are attracted to, try to ascertain how successful they are academically in these areas and investigate how positive their university experience is.