Accessibility Statement for Pro-Study

This accessibility statement applies to the Pro-Study web platform.

This web app is run by Pro-AT Group. We want as many people as possible to be able to use this website. For example, that means you should be able to:

- Change colours, contrast levels and fonts using the built-in accessibility features
- Navigate most of the website using a keyboard or speech recognition software
- Listen to most of the website using a screen reader (including the most recent versions of JAWS, NVDA and VoiceOver)

We've also made the website text as simple as possible to understand. <u>AbilityNet</u> has advice on making your device easier to use if you have a disability.

How accessible this website is

We know some parts of this website are not fully accessible:

- Some images do not have text alternatives (alt text) for screen reader users
- Some interactive elements cannot be accessed using keyboard navigation
- Content may not be fully accessible when zoomed to 200% or 400%
- Some forms lack clear error instructions for users
- Keyboard navigation can become trapped in certain components

Feedback and contact information

If you find any problems not listed on this page or think we're not meeting accessibility requirements, contact Jonathan Webb (Pro-At Group CEO) on info@pro-study.co.uk We'll consider your request and get back to you in 7 days.

Enforcement procedure

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is responsible for enforcing the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018 (the 'accessibility regulations'). If you're not happy with how we respond to your complaint, <u>contact the Equality Advisory and Support Service (EASS)</u>.

Technical information about this website's accessibility

Pro-AT Group is committed to making its web app accessible, in accordance with the Public Sector Bodies (Websites and Mobile Applications) (No. 2) Accessibility Regulations 2018.

Compliance status

The web app is currently undergoing a full audit against the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG) 2.2 AA standard. Following a light touch audit we can confirm that the web application is partially compliant with the <u>Web Content Accessibility Guidelines</u> <u>version 2.2</u> AA standard, due to listed below.

Non-accessible content

The content listed below is non-accessible for the following reasons:

Non-compliance with the accessibility regulations

We have identified the following accessibility issues that we plan to address:

- **Keyboard Navigation Issues**: Users can become trapped in certain components, particularly in the Projects Side Menu and Notes Tab, preventing access to other content on the page. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 2.1.2 (no keyboard trap).
- **Focus Visibility**: The colour contrast for focused and selected items is not clear, making it difficult to identify which element is currently selected. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 2.4.7 (focus visible).

- **Content Resize Issues**: When content is zoomed to 200%, some elements become inaccessible, including category menus and toolbar features. At 400% zoom, side menus cannot be accessed. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 1.4.10 (reflow).
- **Colour Contrast**: In the Research Tile page, the Research Counter number at the top of the page is not readable when a dark colour is selected. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 1.4.3 (contrast minimum).
- Error Identification: The info window provides no guidance for date format errors, making it difficult for users to understand and correct errors. This fails WCAG 2.2 success criterion 3.3.1 (error identification) and 3.3.3 (error suggestion).

When we publish new content, we'll make sure our use of images meets accessibility standards. We plan to fix these issues as part of our ongoing accessibility improvements.

Disproportionate burden

Complex Navigation Structure

Our current navigation structure, particularly in the Projects Side Menu and Research Tiles sections, would require significant architectural changes to implement proper keyboard navigation without trapping users in components. The complexity arises from the deeply nested interactive elements that were designed primarily for pointer interactions.

Responsive Design Limitations

The current interface layout was designed for standard desktop viewing and makes extensive use of fixed positioning elements. This makes it technically difficult to accommodate text resizing and zooming beyond 200% without a complete redesign of the user interface components and underlying CSS framework.

Legacy Component Integration

Several third-party components used for academic resource management and citation features have limited accessibility support and would need to be replaced entirely, which would impact core functionality of the Pro-Study platform.

We've assessed the cost of addressing these issues immediately and determined that doing so would constitute a disproportionate burden within the meaning of the accessibility regulations. However, we are committed to improving accessibility and have scheduled the following actions:

- Implement critical fixes for keyboard traps in the Projects Side Menu by Q4 2025
- Address focus visibility and colour contrast issues by September 2025
- Develop a roadmap for complete navigation restructuring as part of our next major platform update in Q1 2026

Content that's not within the scope of the accessibility regulations

User File Uploads (PDFs)

Pro-Study hosts a variety of files, including research papers and academic documents that are uploaded by users. Many of these are PDFs created before 23 September 2018 and are not essential to providing our core study services, as alternative formats or summaries are typically available.

These documents include:

- Archived research papers in our reference library
- Historical academic journals
- Legacy study materials from partner institutions

For these types of content, we are not required to fix accessibility issues under the regulations. However, we are implementing the following measures to improve accessibility:

- 1. All new template documents created by Pro-Study will meet accessibility standards
- 2. User guidance on creating accessible academic documents will be provided in the next edition of our User Guide.

Preparation of this accessibility statement

This statement was prepared on 1st April 2025.