



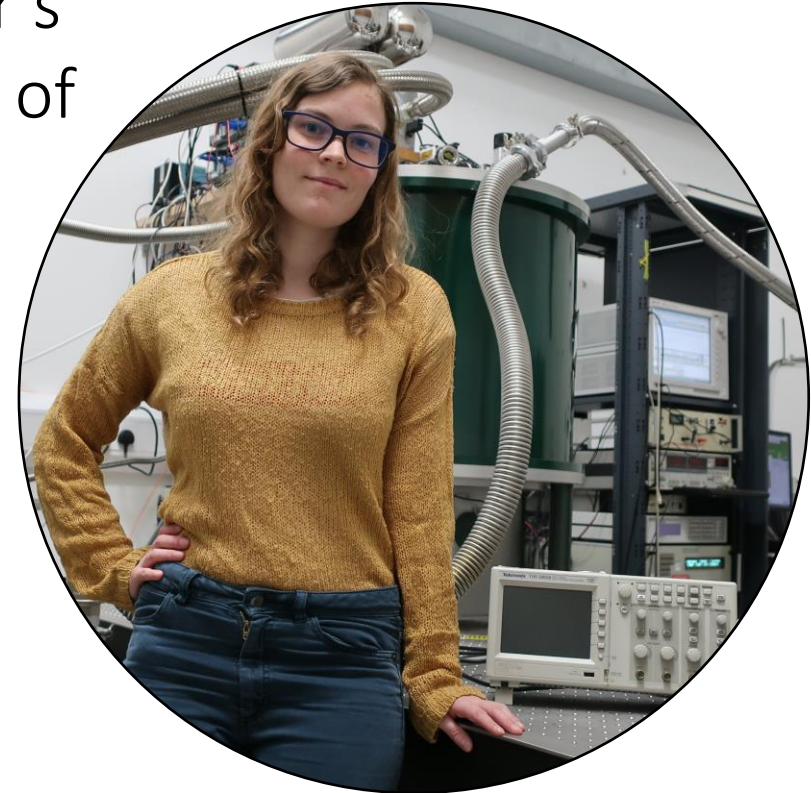
My experiences as an autistic physicist

Daisy Shearer

8th July 2021

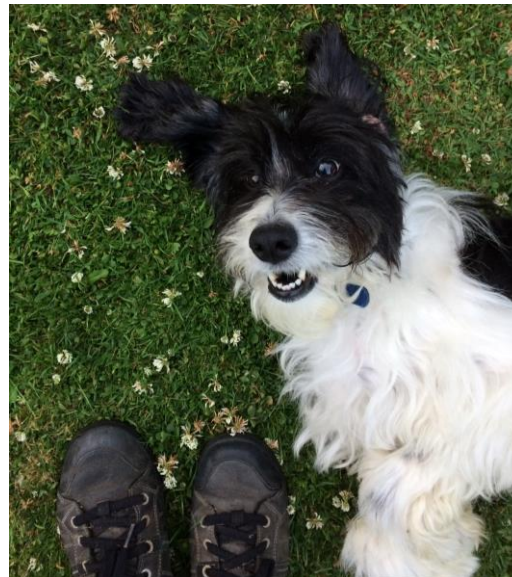
My academic background

- 2014-2018: Integrated master's (MPhys) in physics, University of Surrey
- 2017: R&D Intern, Centre for Integrated Photonics
- 2018-present: PhD student in experimental condensed matter physics, University of Surrey
- Research focus: quantum technology and semiconductor spintronics



My autism diagnosis story

- Diagnosed Dec 2017
- During internship
- Allowed me to access Disabled Students Allowance
- Empowering!



Mum and Bella came along!



DIAGNOSTIC AND DEVELOPMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Name: Daisy Shearer

Address:

Date of Birth:

Date of assessment: 05.12.2017


DIAGNOSIS: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger Syndrome with classic women and girl's presentation

The information for this report was derived from:

1. Interview with Daisy using the Diagnostic Interview for Social and Communication Disorders (DISCO). This is a detailed semi-structured interview designed by Dr Lorna Wing and Dr Judith Gould to elicit a picture of the whole person from early years to present day functioning. The primary purpose is to facilitate understanding of the pattern over time of the skills and impairments that underlie the overt behaviour. In this way, it is possible to identify any manifestations of the autistic spectrum from the most obvious to the more subtle. This is a dimensional approach rather than using arbitrary cut off points and placing individuals into distinct categories. This dimensional approach to clinical description is far more helpful for prescribing how best to help each individual.
2. Developmental questionnaire completed by Daisy's mother and father. Daisy's mother was also present for the majority of the diagnostic interview and was able to provide detailed history

Reason for Referral

Daisy has been experiencing anxiety, depression and some OCD symptoms. Initially these were understood in terms of physical illness, but the underlying impact of mental health has become more apparent in recent years.


Author: HPA The Countess of Wessex
Editor: Jane Asher
Trustee: Mark Lewis

The National Autistic Society is a company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 1032096 and a charity registered in England and Wales (294426) and in Scotland (SC039475).
Registered office: 383 City Road, London, EC1Y 1HQ

Until everyone understands



My autistic strengths



Passionate
interests

Attention
to detail

Intense
focus

Creativity

Unique
thought
process

Tenacity &
Resilience

Curiosity &
Expertise

Loyalty

Kind and
accepting

Critical
thinking

Methodical
approach

Integrity &
honesty

Support and reasonable adjustments

Disabled Student's Allowance



Disability Advisor

Specialist Mentor

Study Skills Mentor

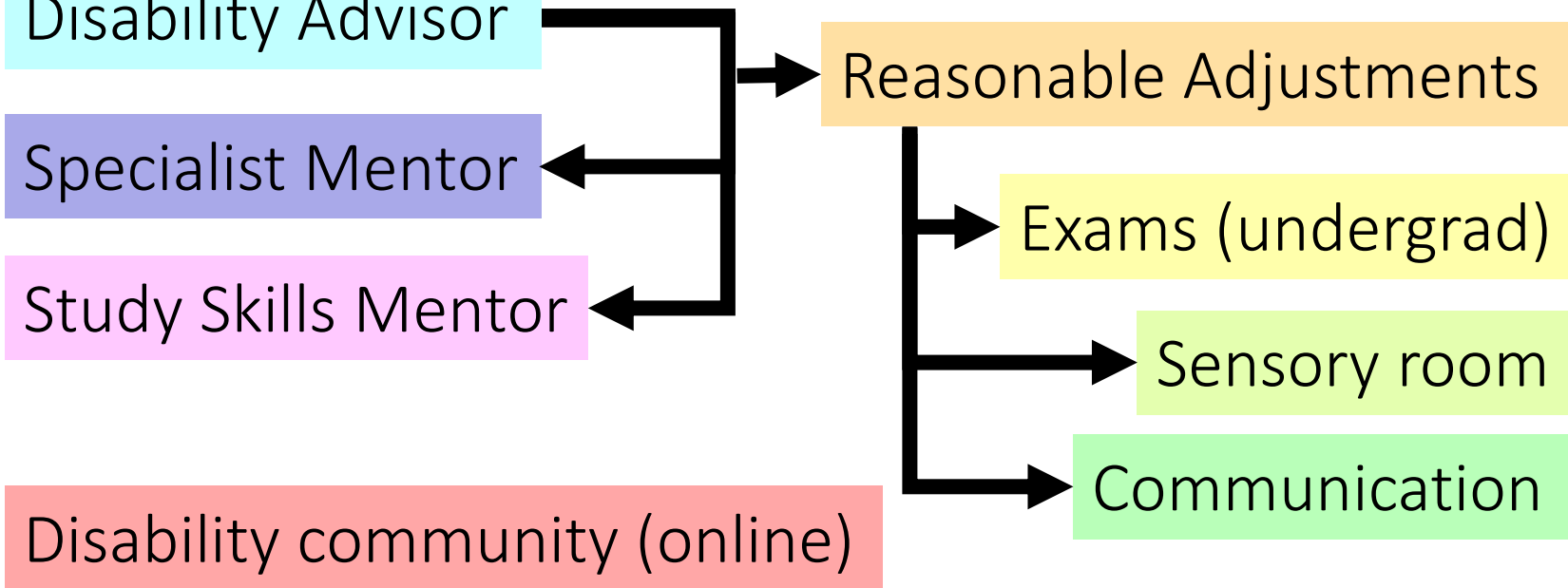
Disability community (online)

Reasonable Adjustments

Exams (undergrad)

Sensory room

Communication





What can you do?

- Learn about neurodiversity and disability
- Listen to neurodivergent and disabled voices
- Consider individual needs
- Make accessibility your default (e.g. providing lesson materials in advance, captioning videos etc.)
- Spread the word!

Get in contact



- Website: <https://www.daisyshearer.com/>
- Blog: <https://notesfromthephysicslab.com/>
- Email: daisykshearer@gmail.com
- Instagram: [@notesfromthephysicslab](https://www.instagram.com/notesfromthephysicslab)
- Twitter: [@QuantumDaisy](https://twitter.com/QuantumDaisy)
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/daisy-shearer/>