OrCam Read Smart
Assessors Recommendation Guide

What is the OrCam Read Smart?

The OrCam Read Smart is a portable hand-held text-to-speech device, which can assist students who are diagnosed with a visual impairment to overcome difficulties reading text close-up, or at distance, and from various sources.

For example:
- Hard copy
- Magazines
- Computer screens
- PowerPoint slides
- Projection screens
- Wall mounted signs
- Bus timetables

The OrCam Read Smart has an inbuilt Smart Reading Command feature, which allows the user to identify or extract key information through voice command alone.

Through voice command alone, the OrCam Read Smart can be used to read everything on the page, start from a specific point within the text, read specific headlines or article numbers, as well as read dates or amounts (currency).

Who is the OrCam Read Smart Smart for?

The OrCam Read Smart is predominantly for low vision users, or those who experience reduced vision as a result of disability related issues:

For example:
- Glaucoma
- Keractaconus
- Migraine (with aura)
- Diabetic retinopathy
- Multiple sclerosis
- Strabismus

Areas of study where the OrCam Read Smart can be recommended:

Research and Reading
• The **OrCam Read Smart** will enable students to overcome issues with accessing text-based material, by instantaneously converting text into speech, which is easier for the student to access.
• The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to convert text to speech from either hard-copy (books/handouts), or digital research material displayed on a screen or monitor.
• By using the **Smart Reading Command** feature, the **OrCam Read Smart** can speed up the students ability to identify specific key information directly within text.
• Due to the portability of the device, the **OrCam Read Smart** can be used in a variety of locations, where it would not be possible to set up a CCTV magnifier, or a computer in order to access screen reading and magnification software.
• The **OrCam Read Smart** can also be used to sound out unfamiliar words, and to discover how they are pronounced.
• The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to read multiple documents or pages at once, ideal for continuous reading tasks, and further speeding up the reading process.
• The **OrCam Read Smart** will allow the student to adjust the reading speed (according to user preference), as well as pause, or repeat a sentence or section of text.

Writing and Reviewing Academic Work

- In the absence of screen reading software or magnification devices, the **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to proofread draft essays, or other compositional work that is displayed on a computer screen.

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used as a proofreading tool where the student prefers to work with hard copy drafts.

Note-taking in Lectures and Seminars

- Due to the portability of the **OrCam Read Smart**, this can be used to read back information which is displayed at distance, on flip charts, smart screens, or projection screens.

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can also be used to read out handouts, or other teaching material which has not been enlarged to a sufficient level.

- The **OrCam Read Smart Reading Commands** feature can be used to help the student navigate quickly through handouts. This will be particularly useful when the student is required to identify, or read through specific information during taught sessions.

Time management and organisation

- The OrCam Read Smart can be synced with the students iOS device (phone/tablet) through the **OrCam Read Smart app**. This is beneficial, as if the student were to misplace the **OrCam Read Smart**, the device can be located through the app by selecting the 'Find' feature.

  - When the student selects the '*Find*' feature, the **OrCam Read Smart** will send out an auditory signal which the student can follow to locate the device.

- By using the voice command feature, the student can use the **OrCam Read Smart** to tell the time. This will be particularly useful if the student has difficulty reading clock faces, or telling time on a watch.

Practical Sessions, Placements, Field Trips and Additional Course Activities

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to read text based information or instructions (e.g. scripts) that are not enlarged to an accessible level.

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to read signs when navigating around unfamiliar environments.

Examinations and Timed Assessments

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to overcome issues with accessing text-based material during the revision process, by instantaneously converting text into speech, which is easier for the student to access.

- The **OrCam Read Smart** could be used during examinations to read through exam questions, and proofread typed responses.

- *Please note: As the **OrCam Read Smart** does not store information, or be able to access or scroll the internet, the device could be used as a reading aid in exams. However, the student would need approval from the HEI before using the **OrCam Read Smart** in examinations.*

Travel and Access to Higher Education Environment

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used as an orientation tool to help the student read wall mounted signs, or notices around campus. This will help the student build independence, and less reliance on one to one support.

Additional Information - Accommodation

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used when accessing shared facilities such as the fridge or bathroom, to ensure that the student does not accidentally take items which do not belong to them.

- The **OrCam Read Smart** can be used to read wall mounted signs which inform the student of fire exits, or the floor number at their accommodation.