La Rochelle Université is a young university founded in 1993 on the *Port des Minimes* of La Rochelle, number one marina on the Atlantic coast.

From La Rochelle, you can feel the energy of the ocean and refuel iodized air: maritime landscapes, bird watching, fishing huts... Oceanic or Mediterranean parks extend over nearly 350 hectares and encourage strolling and relaxation. With a rich architectural heritage and treasures from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance, from the seventeenth to the twentieth century until the contemporary period, La Rochelle represents the sweetness of life.

Since its foundation, La Rochelle Université aims at becoming a reference for the inclusion of students and staff with disabilities or special needs with a proactive approach to disability. By making specific arrangements for students with temporary or long-term disabilities, the *Relais Handicap* accompanies them in order to help them complete successfully their studies.

In relation with the *University Health Service (SDSU)*, our teaching teams are mobilized in plural teams in order to take into account specific situations. The growing number of students benefiting from these arrangements shows the effectiveness of the system. The involvement of all the staff of La Rochelle Université is helping in creating some genuinely personalized study programmes.

At the *Relais Handicap*, the counsellors of the service will help students with disabilities or special needs:

- define their study programme project before they start at University
- Assess their needs
- Provide a personalised follow-up throughout their studies.

Some equipment can be provided (loan of laptops with special software, micro HF, writing tablet for use in a wheelchair, wheelchair for field visits...), personal assistance is offered (note taker, secretary for exams, teaching assistant, tutor to help settle into the university...), and specific arrangements can be organised for studies and exams.

In addition to this, a *Handicap counsellor* in the Human Resources Department of La Rochelle Université is responsible for raising awareness about disabilities within the
university community and for setting up workstations for employees with disabilities or special needs.

At La Rochelle Université, you can be ensured that we aim at providing a high quality environment where we can all live together.