

"I first discovered Irlen syndrome when I was researching accessibility tools during my practicum in the summer of 2022. When I looked at the Irlen website I found Donna! Imagine my surprise that she was only 15 minutes away from me! Donna was kind enough to present education to myself and the staff at my practicum about Irlen syndrome. Initially, I had not considered the possibility I had Irlen syndrome but as I learned more from Donna I began to wonder! I booked an appointment and Donna made the usually nerve wracking medical appointments enjoyable and educational. She was patient and took the time to ensure I was providing my accurate responses without making me feel rushed. In that appointment I learned I do have Irlen and it was empowering that I could see the difference and understand it! It felt as if Donna and I had made a discovery together instead of the stereotypical medical professional reading a bunch of jargon and saying "that's what it is!" Donna helped me select coloured overlays which I still use on my laptop for school work! I am so fortunate that not only is there an Irlen professional close to me but one that is kind and genuinely passionate about helping others learn about Irlen."

-Stephanie Bonnar

VIU third year bachelor of social work student