

## List of Useful Contacts, Resources and Funding Options

### Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

*Only students registered on the PGDip/MA programmes are eligible for this.*

What is DSA?

DSA is support for UK higher education students to pay for the additional costs you might have as a result of your disability. You can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if you have a disability, including a:

- Long-term health condition (for example diabetes, cancer, CFS/ME, epilepsy)
- Mental health condition (for example psychosis, depression, anxiety)
- Specific learning difficulty, e.g. dyslexia
- Mobility, hearing, sight impairment
- Autistic Spectrum Condition including Asperger's Syndrome

How do I know if I am eligible?

- You must be a UK Higher Education course student and your condition must meet the definition of a disability under the Equality Act 2010. For more guidance about this please follow the link below: [www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/570382/Equality\\_Act\\_2010-disability\\_definition.pdf](http://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/570382/Equality_Act_2010-disability_definition.pdf)
- You are disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on your ability to do normal daily activities.
- 'Substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed, attending lectures and seminars, concentrating or taking notes.
- 'Long-term' means 12 months or more, e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection, chronic mental health problems, Autistic Spectrum Condition.

What can I expect from DSA?

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are paid on top of any other student finance. They help you pay the extra costs you may have because of your disability. They do not have to be repaid.

How much you get depends on your individual needs - not your household income. If you're a part-time student your '[course intensity](#)' can affect how much you get.

Proving your eligibility

You must provide a report or letter stating that you have a condition that is substantial and long lasting in order to apply for DSA.

Condition	Proof
Disabilities or long-term health condition	Report or letter from your doctor or consultant - you can also fill in the <a href="#">disability evidence form</a>
Mental-health condition	Report or letter from your doctor or consultant - you can also fill in the <a href="#">disability evidence form</a>
Specific learning difficulty like dyslexia	A 'diagnostic assessment' from a psychologist or suitably qualified specialist teacher - you'll need to get reassessed if you had this done when you were under 16

### Booking your needs assessment

After you receive the approval letter, you can go ahead and arrange your Needs Assessment. You can choose any DSA Needs Assessment Centre that best suits your location from the DSA- QAG (Disabled Students Allowances Quality Assurance Group) Needs Assessment Centre Directory: [www.dsa-qag.org.uk](http://www.dsa-qag.org.uk).

### Your DSA

Provides useful information on: Student Finance, Work grants, Specialist Support, and Assistive Technology. They produce easy to follow, step-by-step guides for: The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) and Access to Work (AtW), including contact directories for: Diagnostic Assessments, Needs Assessments, Assistive Technology, Specialist Support, and Assessments for Work. [www.yourdsa.com](http://www.yourdsa.com)

Further information and applications forms can be obtained from:

[www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas](http://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas)

[www.dnamatters.co.uk/resources/dsa/intro/](http://www.dnamatters.co.uk/resources/dsa/intro/)

### Other Useful Links

- Dyslexia Action Learning Fund: [www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk](http://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk)
- Educational Guidance Service: [www.egs.org.uk](http://www.egs.org.uk)
- Snowdon Trust: [www.snowdontrust.org](http://www.snowdontrust.org)
- Multiple Sclerosis Society: [www.mssociety.org.uk](http://www.mssociety.org.uk)
- Young Epilepsy: [www.youngpilepsy.org.uk](http://www.youngpilepsy.org.uk)
- Accessible planet: [www.theaccessibleplanet.com](http://www.theaccessibleplanet.com)
- Sight impairments: [www.rnib.org.uk/young-people/starting-university](http://www.rnib.org.uk/young-people/starting-university)
- Hearing impaired or deaf students: [www.deafunity.org](http://www.deafunity.org)
- ME/Chronic fatigue: [www.actionforme.org.uk/uploads/pdfs/how-might-me-affect-studying.pdf](http://www.actionforme.org.uk/uploads/pdfs/how-might-me-affect-studying.pdf)
- Specialist Counselling: [www.grooops.org](http://www.grooops.org)