



# Disabled Students' Allowance

Students on our Higher Education Courses who require additional support need to apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance.

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) help to pay for extra costs that a student might have as a direct result of their disability, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty. It is additional support available to students who may otherwise be disadvantaged from attending a higher education course because of a disability.

## Eligibility

Students may be eligible for DSAs if they have any of the following:

- A mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression
- A specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- A developmental disorder, such as autism, ADHD/ADD
- A progressive medical condition such as Multiple Sclerosis, cancer or HIV
- A sensory impairment which could affect their ability to see or hear
- Another physical or medical condition

Other conditions not mentioned on this list may be covered by DSAs.

## Key facts

- Available to undergraduates whether studying full-time or part-time
- Does not have to be repaid
- Does not depend on income: amounts are related to the level of need up to the specified maximum amounts
- Does not affect benefit entitlement
- Is not affected by a student's age

## How to apply

Students apply online and need to apply as soon as they can as the application process can take up to 14 weeks. Students will need to reapply every year for DSA to continue receiving support.

What evidence is required?

- **Physical conditions** Report or letter from your GP or consultant
- **Specific learning difficulties** Post-16 report from a psychologist or suitably qualified specialist teacher
- **Mental health difficulties** Report or letter from your GP or consultant

## How much is available?

Once it has been determined you are eligible you may need to attend a 'needs assessment' which will determine how much funding you are entitled to - this assessment is paid for through your DSA entitlement. The

Higher Education Officer at the college can help with this and identify your nearest Assessment Centre if required.

Further information can be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview>