

Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)

What is Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)?

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Disabled Student Allowance (DSAs)

DSAs are grants to help with any extra essential costs you may have as a direct result of your disability.

DSAs do not depend on household income and do not need to be repaid.

DSAs do not affect funding for any other student finance.

What type of support is available?

- Specialist Equipment
for example, if you require a computer to run specialist software or a braille display
- Non-Medical Helper
for example, if you need a BSL interpreter to attend lectures
- General costs
for example, additional printing costs
- Travel
for example, if you need to use a taxi to attend university, rather than using public transport

How do I get my DSA support?

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DSA process

- Application
- Assessment
- Support

Application

- Apply online – full time students who are applying for other aspects of support from Student Finance England, i.e. a loan
- Apply on paper – part time students, post graduate students and any full time undergraduate student who is not applying for a loan
<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms>
- Send in evidence of your disabilities
 - Digital upload
 - Email – dsa_medical_evidence@slc.co.uk
 - Post
 - Student Finance England
PO Box 210
Darlington DL1 9HJ

Evidence of disability

- Due to the current COVID-19 outbreak, we understand that you may not be able to get new evidence. You should send us any evidence you already have so we can check your eligibility for DSAs. If we need additional evidence, we will let you know.
- **Remember** – you do not need to send us original copies of disability evidence.
- The type of evidence we need depends on what conditions you want to apply for:
 - Diagnostic report
 - Letter from GP or other Medical Professional
 - SFE Disability evidence form (<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/eligibility>)

Evidence of disability

Type of condition	For example	Evidence		
		Diagnostic Report	Evidence from medical professional	SFE Disability evidence form
Physical disability	Mobility difficulty, use a wheelchair	No	Yes	Yes
Blind or Partial Sight	Blind, serious visual impairment	No	Yes	Yes
Deaf or Partial Hearing	Deaf, serious hearing impairment	No	Yes	Yes
Long term health condition	Cancer, HIV, epilepsy	No	Yes	Yes
Mental health condition	Depression, anxiety disorder	No	Yes	Yes
Autism spectrum disorder	Autism, Asperger's syndrome	No	Yes	Yes
Specific learning difficulty	Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, SpLD	Yes	No	No
Specific learning difficulty	Dyspraxia, Dysgraphia, ADHD	Yes	Yes	Yes

Assessment

- Receive your eligibility letter
- Book an appointment – at a location which you choose
- Meet with an experienced Needs Assessor – this might be via a video call or it could be face to face
- **Remember** – this is not a test, it's to help decide what support would help you on your course

Support

- We will write to you and tell you what support has been agreed
- You can then start to organise your support
- Our providers have adapted the way that they deliver their services so this can still happen whilst social distancing rules are in place
- Providers will then invoice SFE for any support that they have provided, and we will pay this on your behalf
- Your support will continue for the duration of your course, if your needs change, we can review your package of support

What other financial support is available?

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What support is available?

Full Time students can apply for –

A non-means tested Tuition Fee Loan (up to a maximum of £9250 in 2020/21)

A maintenance loan to help towards living costs

Additional support for student with Caring Responsibilities

Additional NHS Support available for students on NHS Related Courses – [more information here](#)

Part Time students can apply for –

A non-means tested Tuition Fee Loan (up to a maximum of £6935 in 2020/21)

A part time maintenance loan if studying a full degree programme

(not available on Foundation Degrees or HNDs)

[more information here](#)

Postgraduate students can apply for –

A non-means tested Postgrad Masters Loan (PGM) or Postgrad Doctoral Loan (PGD)

[more information here](#)

Application process – evidence requirements

- Standard evidence is required in the usual way for full and part time students
- We may need to see additional evidence from sponsors (e.g. marital / separation documentation).
- Hopefully this evidence is easy to come by, but remember please do not put yourself at any risk by leaving your house to source evidence, just send it in later. Your assessment will be paused, but you will not be financially penalised by sending the information in at a later date.

When can I apply?

FULL TIME – **Apply Now!** Applications can be made at www.gov.uk/slc

PART TIME – Launch is expected to be on time, with applications available from June 2020 at www.gov.uk/slc

POSTGRADUATE LOANS – Launch is expected to be on time, with applications available from late June 2020 at www.gov.uk/slc

Wherever possible, we would urge an early application – but appreciate you might not know exactly what you are going to be doing in September.

Remember you can amend (or indeed cancel) your application anytime prior to registration with the university of college.

Contact information and resources

Twitter @SF_England
Facebook Facebook/SF_England

0300 100 0607, Monday to Friday, 10am to 5:30pm, Saturday and Sunday - closed

DSA specific questions can be emailed to: dsa_team@slc.co.uk

www.gov.uk/slc

www.thestudentroom.co.uk

Thankyou for attending.

The presentation, along with details from the Q&A will be made available on the Thomas Pocklington Trust website shortly.

Amy Hedges
Third Party Services Manager - DSA

