# Useful questions to ask on university visit days

Here are a few things to check with the disability coordinators/ advisers and departmental staff at any university you're interested in applying to.

* Does the support available meet your individual needs?
* How does the university currently support other students with a vision impairment?
* Who can help with your application for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)?
* If you need to provide proof of your disability – what is required?

### Accessing facilities

* Check lecture halls, libraries and living accommodation are all accessible.
* Does the university provide a campus orientation service?

### Accessing your course and study materials

* Ask if study materials can be made available in the formats you need. Course providers might have large print, Braille, e-books, audiobooks and digital talking books.
* Ask about Assessment arrangements such as Individual Examination Arrangements (IEAs) e..g. Extra time, using a reader etc.
* Are there facilities for lectures to be recorded?
* Are there specific computer labs which contain access technology already such as online reading software– increasing font sizes, changing background colours and converting text to speech.
* Ask if lecture notes can be provided in advance and discuss accessibility of existing systems such as the university intranet.

### Assistance at university

* Check what facilities there are for personal carers.
* Whether you choose to live on or off campus, you may need to consider getting additional help and support in your daily life – e.g. for cooking, cleaning or transport.
* Start making arrangements as far in advance as possible to make sure you have what you need.

Don’t forget that to cover the cost of your support needs, you can apply for [Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs).](http://www.rnib.org.uk/young-people-starting-university/disabled-students-allowance-dsa-and-other-funding) It is recommended that you start applying for it six to nine months before the course begins!