

DISABLED STUDENTS'

ALLOWANCE (DSA)

FAQs



What is the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)?

The DSA helps to pay for any extra costs or expenses that students incur attending their Higher Education course e.g. disability or long-term health problem; mental health condition or specific learning difficulty. These may include specialised equipment, non-medical helper support, general expenses, and travel costs. The allowance is not means-tested, it is not repayable

Is my condition considered a disability?

You can apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if you have a disability or condition that affects your ability to study, such as a:

- ▶ learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, or ADHD
- ▶ mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression
- ▶ physical disability, such as if you're partially sighted or have to use crutches
- ▶ long-term health condition, such as cancer, chronic heart disease, or HIV

Will I need to provide evidence?

Yes, - you will have to submit proof of your eligibility. For example;

CONDITION	PROOF
Disabilities or long-term health condition	A copy of a report or letter from your doctor or consultant - or you can fill in the disability evidence form
Mental health condition	A copy of a report or letter from your doctor or consultant - or you can fill in the disability evidence form
Specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia	A copy of a 'diagnostic assessment' from a practitioner psychologist or suitably qualified specialist teacher

What happens at a study needs assessment?

Your assessment is confidential and conducted in a relaxed, informal, and supportive environment. Needs assessors have specialist experience in working with higher education students and discussing recommendations for support. You'll have the opportunity to talk about past experiences and any strategies you've developed to address challenges. Once your learning needs have been discussed and the barriers identified, the assessor will propose support that could benefit you. The assessment is your opportunity to discuss any challenges you face in education. It's steered by the amount of information you share. You might consider making a short list of things you find challenging, so you remember to discuss them all.

<https://www.ucas.com/money-and-student-life/money/additional-funding/disabled-students-allowance-dsa/what-expect-dsa-assessment>

MORE FAQs	ANSWERS
Can my parents go with me to the assessment meeting?	Yes, although do check with your assessment centre.
Will DSA pay for my tuition fees and living costs?	No, The DSA is not intended to cover living costs, care costs or tuition fees
How do I apply?	Apply through Student Finance England (SFE). For information about eligibility, guides, and application forms, and to apply online visit: https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas

Top Tips:

- ▶ You can scan your evidence and upload it to your online account or email it to **dsa_team@slc.co.uk**
- ▶ Keep all relevant documents and receipts safe, you may need them later.
- ▶ Contact your disability or wellbeing support service at your university or College, they may offer additional help and support.

For further information and advice please visit:

www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/applying-disabled-students%E2%80%99-allowance-dsa#_Toc119411405

www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/disabled-students-allowances-dsa.html#support

www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa