



Disabled Students' Allowances

What's available? 

What evidence is required? 

What to do and when to do it 



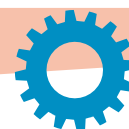
Disabled Students' Allowances

A student is considered disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) help students pay the extra essential costs they may have as a direct result of a disability, including a mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia or dyspraxia.

They don't have to pay these back.

What are they for?



DSAs can help with the cost of having a person to support the student (for the additional support they may require while studying), items of specialist equipment, travel and other study-related costs.

What's available?



DSAs don't depend on household income – what the student can get depends on their individual needs.

We may ask the student to arrange a Study Needs Assessment with an Independent Needs Assessor to find out exactly what equipment and support they need.

The table below shows the help available and the maximum amounts for 2016/17.

Allowance	Maximum available		Duration
	Full time	Part time	
Non-medical helper	£20,725	£15,543	Annual
Specialist equipment	£5,212	£5,212	Duration of course
General allowance	£1,741	£1,305	Annual
Disability-related travel	Reasonable spending on extra travel costs as a result of the student's condition		

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What evidence is required?



For physical disabilities and mental-health conditions	A medical report or a written medical statement from a doctor or qualified specialist confirming their disability or mental-health condition and how this will affect their ability to study.
For specific learning difficulties (like dyslexia)	A full diagnostic assessment, carried out after they turned 16, from a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a chartered or practitioner psychologist, or • suitably qualified specialist teacher holding a current Assessment Practising Certificate

What to do in three easy steps



- Step 1** ▶ **New full-time students**
Once they've applied for their main student finance and told us they want to apply for DSAs they'll be prompted to download an application form. If they only want to apply for DSAs and no other type of student support they need to complete a DSA1 application form which they'll be able to download at www.gov.uk/studentfinance. Encourage your students to apply early as the application process for DSAs can take around 14 weeks.
- New part-time students**
They can apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) by downloading a DSA1 application form at www.gov.uk/studentfinance once the part-time service opens. They should fill this in and return it to us.
- Step 2** ▶ Once the student has applied for DSAs we may ask them to arrange an appointment with an Independent Needs Assessor to find out exactly what equipment and support they need. If we ask them to do this, they should book this assessment as soon as possible. Details of approved Study Needs Assessment Centres can be found at www.dsa-qag.org.uk
- Step 3** ▶ We'll confirm what specialist equipment and other support DSAs can pay for. We'll also give instructions for ordering any specialist equipment or arranging other support.

Disabled Students' Allowances

Braille and other formats



Students can order forms and guides in Braille, large print or audio by emailing their name, address and Customer Reference Number along with what form and format they require to:

brailleandlargefonts@slc.co.uk or they can call us on **0141 243 3686**.

Please note, the above email address and telephone number can only deal with requests for alternative formats of forms and guides.

www.practitioners.slc.co.uk

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Student Finance England is a service provided by the Student Loans Company.
We provide financial support on behalf of the UK Government to students from England entering higher education in the UK.