

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE  
(SSIN)**

Arrangements for students funded under the  
Education (Student Support) Regulations

**DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)**

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in higher education providers; DSA non-medical help suppliers; Student Finance advisors, and The Student Loans Company

**SSIN 05/25  
June 2025**

Dear Colleagues

**Additional qualification options for non-medical help autism roles**

This is a notification that a minor update has been made to DfE's mandatory qualifications and professional body membership requirements matrix to include reference to two courses that DfE has reviewed since the publication of the previous matrix and decided that they meet our requirements for "comprehensive training in adult autism". These courses have been added as qualification options for the Specialist Mentor – Autism Spectrum Conditions (SM-ASC) and the Specialist one-to-one Study Skills and Strategy Support – Autism Spectrum Conditions (SS-ASC) roles. The courses are:

1. **Onyx Student Support training course:** Intermediate Supporting ADHD and Autistic Students in Higher Education
2. **Spectrum First training course:** Understanding the Support Needs of Autistic Students in Higher Education

The updated matrix has been published at  
<https://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk/exchange-blog/2020/september/10092020-guidance-for-nmh-suppliers/>.

This change is to add in additional qualification options; no changes have been made to the existing qualifications on the matrix.

If you have any further queries, please contact the DSA Team at [Disabled.STUDENTALLOWANCES@education.gov.uk](mailto:Disabled.STUDENTALLOWANCES@education.gov.uk).

Regards

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