

**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 needs assessors; Student Finance advisors, and The Student Loans Company

SSIN 07/26
September 2026

**Updates to the mandatory qualification and professional body membership
requirements to deliver DSA-funded non-medical help (NMH) roles**

Dear Colleagues,

Change to National Autistic Society courses

The National Autistic Society has informed DfE that it will shortly be making changes to courses it offers that are currently part of our qualification requirements for the Specialist Mentor – Autism Spectrum Conditions (SM-ASC) and Specialist one-to-one Study Skills and Strategy Support – Autism Spectrum Conditions (SS-ASC) roles.

The changes that the National Autistic Society intends to make are:

- To stop offering the “Women and Girls” online training module.
- To replace the “Autism: supporting families” online training module with a new module in “Key principles of neuroinclusive practice (SPELL)”.

In response to these changes, DfE has removed the “Women and Girls” online training module as a requirement and replaced the “Autism: supporting families” module with the “Key principles of neuroinclusive practice (SPELL)” module.

The updated mandatory qualification and professional body membership requirements apply with immediate effect. Support workers who meet the previous qualification requirements for these roles will not be required to re-qualify under the updated requirements but are advised, as usual, to keep full records of their qualifications for audit purposes.

ADSHE / PASSHE name change

DfE has also taken the opportunity of this update to the matrix to reflect the fact that the Association of Dyslexia Specialists in Higher Education (ADHSE) has now changed its name to the Professional Association of Specific Learning Difference Specialists in Higher Education (PASSHE). A note has been included that PASSHE

was formerly known as ADSHE to prevent confusion. This is a name change only and has no effect on the qualification requirements.

If you have any queries, please contact the Disabled Students' Allowance Team at:
Disabled.STUDENTALLOWANCES@education.gov.uk.

Regards

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