

# Student Finance England

## Disabled Students' Allowance

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**Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)** support is available to cover any study-related costs you may have because of a mental health problem, long-term illness or any other disability.

This can be on its own or in addition to any student finance you get.

The type of support and how much you get depends on your individual needs - not your household income.

Disabled Students' Allowance doesn't need to be repaid.

### What DSA can pay for

You can get help with the costs of:

- specialist equipment, for example a computer if you need one because of your disability
- non-medical helpers, for example a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or specialist note taker
- extra travel to attend your course or placement because of your disability
- other disability-related study support, for example having to print additional copies of documents for proof-reading.

DSA doesn't cover disability-related costs you'd have if you were not attending a course, or costs that any student might have.

### DSA APPLICATION PROCESS

#### 1. APPLY

Apply online at the same time you apply for core support. If applying later, you will need to apply using a paper application

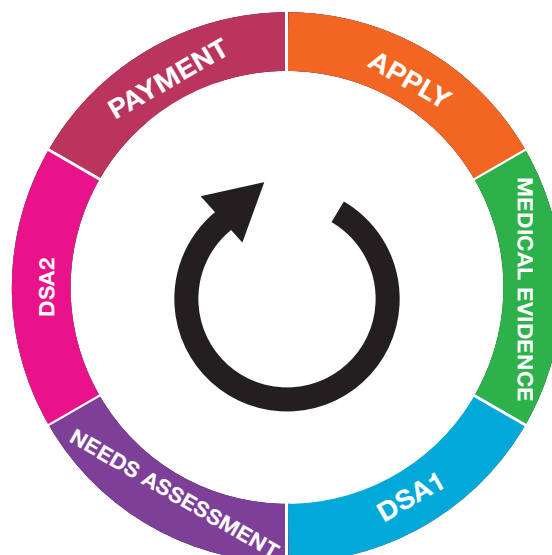
#### 2. MEDICAL EVIDENCE

Supply your medical evidence in one of these three formats:

- Diagnostic Report (learning difficulties)
- Letter from a GP or other medical professional
- SFE Disability Evidence Form

#### 3. DSA1 LETTER

SLC will send you a DSA1 letter, confirming your eligibility for DSA and instructions for booking your needs assessment



#### 4. NEEDS ASSESSMENT

It can take 22 days to attend a needs assessment appointment so get it booked asap!

#### 5. DSA2 LETTER

This letter confirms your package of support and instructions for ordering specialist equipment / arranging other support

#### 6. PAYMENT

Suppliers invoice the DSA team directly for the support they have provided (students are liable for a £200 contribution of any laptop/ PC recommendations) Some students are also agreed a General Allowance and are able to send receipts (student claims) to claim back these costs

## Your 'needs assessment'

Once your eligibility for DSA is confirmed (via the DSA1 letter), Student Finance England may ask you to contact an assessment centre to work out what help you need.

This is known as a needs assessment. Don't book this until Student Finance England asks you to. Once instructed, please arrange your needs assessment straight away to avoid delays.

The assessment is paid for through any DSA entitlement you may have.

After the assessment, you'll get a report listing equipment and other support you can get for your course.

Don't buy any equipment until you've been assessed - you won't be reimbursed for it.

## How DSA is paid:

Money is paid either into your bank account or directly to the organisation providing the service or equipment. You'll find out how your support will be paid to you after your needs assessment.

## How to apply:

How you apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) depends on whether you're studying full-time or part-time.

### Full-time undergraduate students

If you've already applied for student finance, sign-in to your student finance account to start your DSA application.

The application for DSA should be on your 'to-do list' if you chose DSA in your application for other support. If it isn't, select 'change your circumstances' to apply.

If you haven't applied for student finance, you can apply for DSA when you apply for student finance online: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance>

If you don't have an online account because you applied for student finance by post, fill in a student finance form (DSA slim form).

If you don't need student finance, you can fill in a DSA1 form to apply just for DSA.

You can't apply for student finance online once you've applied for DSA.

### Part-time and postgraduate students

Fill in a student finance form (DSA1 form) to apply for DSA.

### If you're already getting DSA

Fill in a student finance form (DSA costs claim form) to claim back your expenses.

## Forms:

Forms are available here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance-forms>

## How long it takes:

You'll get confirmation of whether your application is successful within 6 weeks.

It can take up to 14 weeks to get your DSA support in place as this is done separately.

## Further Information:

For further information, including how much DSA is available for the academic year, please see: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>