

DISABLED STUDENTS'

ALLOWANCE (DSA)

FAQs



What is the Disabled Students' 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.

How do I apply?

Apply through Student Finance England (SFE). For information about eligibility, guides and application forms, visit: <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas>

Confirmation of Eligibility for DSA

Once you have submitted your DSA application you will receive a letter from Student Finance England confirming your eligibility for DSA and authorising you to book an appointment for a Study Needs Assessment. You must take a copy of this letter; also your Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), medical evidence or educational psychologist's report to the appointment, for the assessor to see.

What is a Study Needs Assessment?

Study Needs Assessments are carried out by independent assessors. During your assessment you will be asked about the difficulties you have encountered with your previous studies due to your disability, medical condition or specific learning difficulty. The assessor will also consider the particular demands of your course and try to anticipate any problems which may arise. Through this interview the assessor will draw up a series of recommendations for your support and detail the equipment, support workers, travel expenses, training and other strategies which are deemed necessary during your course.

The Needs Assessment Report

After the appointment, the assessor will write up your recommendations in the form of a report, a copy of which is sent to you, to Student Finance England and (if you have consented) to your college. You will have the opportunity to read it and make any comments that you feel are necessary before it is finalised.

Notification of Entitlement from your funding body

You should then receive a letter from Student Finance England to confirm that they have received the report and approved the recommendations. The letter will give you instructions on how to arrange your support, purchase of any equipment etc.

Tips:

- ▶ If you have already applied for Student Finance, you can scan your DSA evidence and email it to: dsa_team@slc.co.uk
- ▶ DSA can be applied for at the same time as the Student Finance application.
- ▶ Keep all relevant documents and receipts safe.

For further information and advice please visit:

<https://www.savesthestudent.org/student-finance/disabled-students-allowances-dsa.html>