

What are Disabled Students' Allowances?

As a home [UK] higher education student you can apply for a Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), if you have a disability, including a long-term health condition, mental health condition or a specific learning difficulty, eg dyslexia.

What will DSA pay for?

DSA can help with the costs of:

- ◆ specialist equipment, eg a computer if you need one because of your disability
- ◆ non-medical helpers, such as mental health mentoring and study skills for dyslexia
- ◆ extra travel needed as a result of your disability
- ◆ other disability-related costs of studying
- ◆ DSAs do not cover disability-related costs you would have if you were not attending a course, or costs that any student might have.
- ◆ DSAs do not depend on household income - what you can get depends on your individual needs.
- ◆ Your exact entitlement will be determined by a full assessment of study needs.

What will the non-medical helpers support look like?

- ◆ Support at university may look very different from any support you may have received in school or college.
- ◆ Support is discrete and is carried out in private, confidential rooms, generally away from the classroom.
- ◆ Your support will be scheduled to fit around your timetable - we would not expect you to miss a class to attend.
- ◆ Although not course specific, your support will be relevant to your studies.
- ◆ Where support is needed in classrooms, for example for note taking or practical aspects, unless you chose or it is necessary, the support member of staff does not need to sit next to you.

What will DSA pay for?

- ◆ When you apply for your main student finance you can also chose to apply for DSA.
- ◆ There is no cut-off date for applying and you can apply if you are already a student.
- ◆ It can take up to 14 weeks to go through the process of being awarded DSAs - so applying early is very important to maximise the chances of support being in place from the start of the course.

How do I apply ?

- ◆ If you are only applying for the Disabled Students' Allowances or you are attending Part Time or studying on a Post Graduate course you should complete the full DSA1 Form.
- ◆ If you have completed or are in the middle of completing your application for student finance, you are an undergraduate and you also want to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances, you should complete the shortened version of the DSA1 Form.

For either form follow the steps below:

Step 1

Send your evidence either: a diagnostic assessment of Specific Learning Difficulties, such as dyslexia, or medical form completed by a medical authority (available on the DSA website or from the Disability Advisors). If you don't have current proof of your disability, please contact the Disability Advisor to discuss your options.

Step 2

If you are eligible for the DSA, you will receive an entitlement letter from your DSA funding provider. You'll then be asked to attend a needs assessment where you will be asked how your condition affects your ability to study. Recommendations will then be made to student finance based on this.

Step 3

If you are eligible for the DSA, you will receive an approval letter from your DSA funding provider detailing the equipment and support you are entitled to.

What if I need help to apply?

Our Disability Advisors can help you with your application.

Carmarthen Campus -

Helen Davies

Tel: 01267 676822

Email: h.e.davies@uwtsd.ac.uk

Lampeter Campus -

Nerys Williams

Tel: 01570 424960

Email: nerys.williams@uwtsd.ac.uk

Swansea Campus -

Louise Salmon / Kimberley Jenkins

Tel: 01792 481195 / 01792 481039

Email: l.salmon@uwtsd.ac.uk / kimberley.jenkins@uwtsd.ac.uk

What happens while I am waiting for the DSA to be approved?

There is no expectation to write an essay or report right at the start. However, it is very important that you make yourself known to Learning Support at the beginning of the year, so that we can help arrange any support you may be entitled to – this includes extra time in examinations.

You don't need an appointment just contact us once you have enrolled and we will be pleased to help sort things out for you.

Need further information?

Please see below the links to the relevant funding bodies

- [Student Finance England](#)
- [Student Awards Agency Scotland](#)
- [Student Finance Wales](#)
- [Student Finance Northern Ireland](#)

What if I am not eligible for DSA?

- ♦ If you find you are not eligible for DSA, do not worry at UWTSD we have a wide range of support available including Study Skills sessions available each day to help you with your studies.
- ♦ We can also investigate whether you may have an underlying Specific Learning Difficulty that you were not aware of or help you obtain relevant diagnostic and/or medical evidence