

Your guide to Disabled Students' Allowance.





● What is Disabled Students' Allowance?

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is support to cover the study-related costs you 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. You do not need to pay back DSA.

What you will get

2023 to 2024 academic year

Undergraduate and postgraduate students can get up to £26,291 a year for support.

2022 to 2023 academic year

Undergraduate and postgraduate students can get up to £25,575 a year for support.

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

Your needs assessment

Once your eligibility for DSA is confirmed, 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. Do not book this until Student Finance England asks you to. 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. Do not buy any equipment until you've been assessed - you will not 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.

68%

of students who were eligible for DSA found it easy to arrange a needs assessment

Eligibility

You can apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) if you live in England and [have a disability that affects your ability to study](#), such as a:

- specific learning difficulty, for example dyslexia or ADHD
- mental health condition, for example anxiety or depression
- physical disability, for example if you have to use crutches, a wheelchair or a special keyboard
- sensory disability, for example if you're visually impaired, deaf or have a hearing impairment
- long-term health condition, for example cancer, chronic heart disease or HIV

You must also:

- be an undergraduate or postgraduate student (including Open University or distance learning)
- qualify for student finance from Student Finance England
- be studying on a course that lasts at least a year

Who is not eligible

You cannot get DSA from Student Finance England if you're:

- an EU student who is eligible for fee support only
- eligible for [NHS Disabled Students' Allowances](#) (this is a separate scheme)
- getting equivalent support from another funding source, like from your university or a social work bursary
- on a higher or degree apprenticeship course

Your course

Your course must be in the UK and one of the following:

- a first degree, for example BA, BSc or BEd
- a Foundation Degree
- a Certificate of Higher Education
- a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
- a Higher National Certificate (HNC)
- a Higher National Diploma (HND)
- a Postgraduate Certificate of Education (PGCE)
- a postgraduate course
- Initial Teacher Training
- a level 4 or 5 course with Higher Technical Qualification approval

Check with your university or college if you're not sure whether your course qualifies for funding.

Part-time course intensity

For part-time students, your [course intensity](#) can affect how much DSA you get.

'Course intensity' means how long your course takes to complete each year compared to an equivalent full-time course. You can check course intensity with your university or college.

The rules are different depending on your course.

Part-time undergraduate courses

Your course cannot be more than 4 times longer than the equivalent full-time course. Your course must last at least a year.

Part-time postgraduate Master's courses

If you're applying for a [Postgraduate Loan](#) for a part-time Master's degree, the course must not last more than twice as long as the full-time equivalent. However, you may get it for a limited time if you are doing certain types of 'permitted work' to help you move off benefits completely.

Get advice on your eligibility

If you're not sure that you're eligible, you can call or email our dedicated team.

Telephone: 0800 035 6670

Email: enquiries@hearingsupport.info

How to Apply



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

Full-time 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 is not, select 'change your circumstances' to apply.

If you do not have an online account because you applied for student finance by post, fill in a [student finance form \(form DSA1\)](#).

If you have not applied for student finance

You can apply for DSA when you [apply for student finance online](#).

If you do not need student finance, you can fill in a [student finance form \(form DSA1\)](#) to apply just for DSA.

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

Part-time students

Fill in a [student finance form \(form DSA1\)](#) to apply for DSA.

If you're already getting DSA

Fill in a [student finance form \(form DSA1\)](#) to claim back your expenses.

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

Contact the disability adviser at your university or college if you need advice about financial help.

If your circumstances change

[Contact Student Finance England](#) if your circumstances change as this may affect what you're entitled to. For example, if your condition gets worse you may be able to get extra help.

Appeals

You can ask for an explanation or to have your case reviewed if your application is turned down. Contact Student Finance England for more details.

Get advice on your application

If you're not sure how to apply, you can call or email our dedicated team.

Telephone: 0800 035 6670

Email: enquiries@hearingsupport.info



life is on

Since 1947, Phonak is dedicated to preserving life quality by opening new acoustic worlds. Already back then, in the days of our foundation, our company was driven by a formative conviction: We believe that well-hearing equates to well-being and thus is essential for living life to the fullest. In fact, the sense of hearing is directly linked to social, emotional, cognitive and physical well-being. Today as in future, we thrive to offer the broadest portfolio of innovative hearing solutions.

And, together with our hearing care professionals, we keep on focusing on what matters most: improving speech understanding, changing people's lives and having a positive effect on society as a whole.

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