

GUIDE TO DISABLED STUDENT SUPPORT 2024-25



The information contained in this guide sets out the financial help that is available in the 2024-25 academic year for full-time and part-time undergraduate and postgraduate students with disabilities.

1. WHAT HELP IS AVAILABLE?

The Department offers funding to students through Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs).

2. WHAT ARE THE DISABLED STUDENT ALLOWANCES FOR?

The DSAs are awarded where, in the Department's opinion, a student will incur additional costs in attending their course as a direct result of their disability.

The allowances can help with the cost of a non-medical helper, specialist equipment, travel and other course-related costs.

3. YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO APPLY FOR DSA IF:-

- You are undertaking a full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate course.
- You meet the eligibility criteria for Student Awards funding.
- You suffer from a physical, mental health or specific learning difficulty.

4. WHEN CAN I APPLY FOR DSA?

You should submit your application as soon as possible prior to the commencement of your course to ensure that any equipment required is available to you at the start of your studies.

However, should you begin to suffer from or become aware of a disability during the course of your studies you can submit an application at that time

5. HOW DO I APPLY FOR SUPPORT?

You should complete the Disabled Student Allowance application form and return to the Department with the following additional information:-

- A letter from your doctor/specialist in respect any physical disability;
- OR
- A copy of your psychologist's report.
 - Details of any previous assistance provided at Primary/High School

Please note if you have more than one medical condition, you should provide evidence for all of them.

6. WHAT HAPPENS ONCE I HAVE SUBMITTED MY APPLICATION?

The Department will then consider your case and if appropriate, arrange for an assessment of your needs to be carried out. Once this has been received by the Department we can then make the decision to either approve or reject your application.

If your application is unsuccessful you will be given the right of appeal, details of which would be provided at that time.

7. I HAVE HAD MY NEEDS ASSESSMENT, WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

Once the Department receives a copy of your assessment, it will consider the recommendations it contains, and if warranted, will award you a disability allowance from one or more of those shown below in section 8.

8. WHAT ALLOWANCES ARE AVAILABLE?

The rates for the 2024-25 academic year are shown below:-

Undergraduate	£
Basic Allowance per annum	1,642
Additional allowance for non-medical helper (eg. reader)	Max. 12,420
Additional allowance for special equipment (payable once for the entire course)	Max. 4,905
Postgraduate	£
Basic allowance (per annum)	10,993

9. HOW WILL PAYMENTS BE MADE?

The Department will order any agreed equipment from the supplier on your behalf, and will make payment to them direct.

Payments in respect of a non-medical helper will be paid in two ways:

- You make payment direct to the 'helper' and the Department will refund on production of receipts
or
- You can arrange for the University/College to invoice the Department directly.

All other agreed expenditure will be refunded to you on production of receipts.

10. WHAT SPECIAL EQUIPMENT WILL I BE ENTITLED TO?

Your assessment will advise the Department what equipment you require to support you on your course. Unless you require a specialist computer the Department will not normally provide a laptop computer which we consider is a standard piece of equipment needed by all students. If a new laptop is recommended, you are required to make a £200 contribution towards this cost.

11. WHO INSURES MY EQUIPMENT?

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have adequate insurance cover.

12. WILL I HAVE TO REPAY MY DSA IF I WITHDRAW FROM MY COURSE?

Possibly. The Department may recover some or all of the DSA if you leave your course.

13. WHERE CAN I FIND THE APPLICATION FORM FOR DSA?

Downloadable versions of the Application for Disabled Student Allowance 24-25 can be found in the Downloadable Documents section on the main Student Awards webpage <https://www.gov.im/student-awards>

14. WHO SHOULD I CONTACT IF HAVE ANY QUESTIONS/QUERIES?

If you have any questions/queries or would like a paper version of the application form you should contact the team at the below address.

DSA Applications

Student Awards Team

Department of Education, Sport and Children

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