

Getting a Diagnosis of a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)

A **specific learning difficulty** refers to a difference with particular aspects of learning.

The most common SpLDs include:

- dyslexia
- dyspraxia
- dyscalculia
- dysgraphia

What about Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)?

ADHD is also considered to be a 'Specific Learning Difference' (SpLD) but it stands as a distinct diagnosis with unique features. It is mostly characterised by inattention, hyperactivity, and impulsiveness. Often, ADHD co-occurs with other specific learning difficulties, particularly dyslexia.

How can I find out more about SpLDs?

If you want to know more about the common characteristics of specific learning difficulties (SpLDs) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and dysgraphia, the following web page produced by the Dyslexia Association is a good place to start:

<https://www.dyslexia.uk.net/adults/>

If you are interested in understanding the indicators of ADHD, the following web page is also a helpful resource:

<https://www.additudemag.com/adhd-symptoms-test-adults/>

However, if you have never had an assessment for a specific learning difficulty (SpLD) and want to find out whether you may have indicators, please contact Student Services or visit the Student Hub in the Emrys Jones building.

We can offer you a range of free screenings that will examine your cognitive profile in a bit more detail.

Although this will not give you a formal diagnosis, it can help to guide you in the next steps you may wish to take.

I already know that I have a Specific Learning Difficulty such as dyslexia but need an updated assessment so that I can apply for Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) funding. How would I get a formal assessment?

If you already know that you will need an updated assessment, the easiest way to find a suitably qualified assessor is to:

- Conduct a [PATOSS search](#).
- Use the [British Psychological Society](#) (BPS) list of chartered psychologists.
- Or, if you are in the Cirencester area, you may wish to choose from the following assessors who are appropriately qualified and have a separately agreed fee rate for RAU students:

Sally Simmons (Identify Potential):

- Telephone: 07983714033
- Email: sallysimmons68@gmail.com
- Website: www.identifypotential.co.uk
- Able to offer the following assessments: dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD (educational, non-medical)
- Fee: £350

Deborah Woolley (Assessing Your Learning Differences):

- Telephone: 07899805769
- Email: deborah@assessingyourlearningdifferences.co.uk
- Website: <https://www.assessingyourlearningdifferences.co.uk/>
- ✓ Able to offer the following assessments: dyslexia, dyspraxia, dysgraphia, ADHD (educational, non-medical)
- Fee: £425

What about ADHD assessments?

Many Educational Psychologists and other PATOSS recognised assessors can offer educational ADHD assessments. This type of ADHD assessment is different to a medical diagnosis. It will not allow you to obtain medicines for your condition or other types of medical treatment.

However, it will be recognised by us and allow you to access appropriate study support through Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) funding.

You will need to obtain a separate medical diagnosis later if you need medicines or other treatments to manage your condition.

For advice about whether an educational ADHD assessment might be right for you, please contact Student Services or visit us in the Student Hub (Emrys Jones Building).

What are my options for funding my assessment?

All diagnostic assessments for specific learning difficulties are conducted on a private basis, which means that the fee can vary. If you are paying for the assessment yourself it is therefore worth contacting a couple of assessors before booking your test.

If you think that you will struggle to pay for an assessment, or it will leave you in financial difficulty, there may be some funding available to you at RAU to help. This can include funding for an educational ADHD assessment if there is a long wait for a medical assessment with the NHS.

Eligibility and rules for this fund:

- The fund is means-tested. For home students, it's based on your family or household income.

- In order to decide if we are able to help you, we will need to access information from the RAU Registry team that will show your family/household income, so you will need to consent to this.
- If we decide that you are eligible for funding, we will refer you to one of the assessors whom RAU has a separately agreed fee rate.

Please contact Student Services or visit us in the Student Hub if you want to discuss accessing this fund.

How to contact Student Services

Student Services is based in the Student Hub. You can find the Student Hub in the Emrys Jones building.

Or email us at: StudentServices@rau.ac.uk