

Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability

Applied for through Student Finance England

What you'll get

You can apply for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) to cover some of the extra costs you have because of a mental health problem, long term illness or any other disability.

You can get the allowances on top of your other student finance. You will not need to repay DSAs.

If you're a part-time student your '[course intensity](#)' can affect how much you get. How much you get depends on your individual needs - not your household income.

2020 to 2021 academic year

Type of student	Specialist equipment allowance	Non-medical helper allowance	General allowance
Full-time	Up to £5,849 for the whole course	Up to £23,258 a year	Up to £1,954 a year
Part-time	Up to £5,849 for the whole course	Up to £17,443 a year	Up to £1,465 a year

Postgraduates can get a single allowance of up to £20,580 a year.

These figures are the maximum amounts - most students get less.

What DSAs 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
- extra travel because of your disability
- other disability-related costs of studying

You may get a new computer if you do not already have one, or your current one does not meet your study needs. More information will be provided to you if you're assessed as needing a new computer.

You'll need to pay the first £200, which is the minimum cost that any student is likely to incur when buying a computer.

DSAs do 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 DSAs 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 DSAs 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 DSAs are paid

Money is paid either into your bank account or directly to the organisation providing the service or equipment.

Eligibility

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

- learning difficulty, for example dyslexia or ADHD
- mental health condition like anxiety or depression
- physical disability, for example if you're partially sighted or have to use crutches
- long-term health condition such as 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 DSAs from Student Finance England if you're:

- an EU student
- 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

- **Proving you're eligible**

You will not automatically get DSAs - you need proof of your eligibility.

Further information <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas>