



**Support at  
University for  
Students with a  
SEN or Disability**

You may be able to get some support at university if you :



- Have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD)/learning difference like dyslexia or dyspraxia
- Have a mental health condition like depression or an anxiety disorder
- Have a long-standing illness or health condition like epilepsy or chronic fatigue syndrome
- Have a neurodevelopmental condition like AD(H)D
- Are autistic
- Have a physical or mobility difficulty
- Are blind or partially sighted
- Are deaf or hearing impaired
- Have a speech, language or communication difficulty

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Universities have lots of ways to support students, but it can vary so it is always worth getting in touch with the Disability Support Services early (at least with your firm and insurance offers)

Other support is provided through Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) - there is information later about eligibility and application for this and a link to a helpful video

You will need supporting evidence to apply for DSA and for some of the support and adjustments accessed through Disability Services. However, if you don't have this evidence, or are waiting for a diagnosis, it is still worth contacting Disability Support and they can signpost you to appropriate help.

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## What might support look like for transition

- One day transition events e.g. for autistic applicants or overnight orientation stays
- 1:1 campus tours to familiarise yourself with where things are, busy points, quieter areas etc
- Interim mobility training if you're blind or partially-sighted
- A "buddy" system
- Targeted "freshers" events that might be quieter or interest based
- Support for, or early enrolment

# Support for exams/assessments

- Extra time
- Rest breaks
- Prompts
- Use of a computer and software
- Venue with fewer candidates, or alone
- Modified resources
- Practical assistant

# Support Accessing the Campus

- Personal assistants to help students access classes and facilities, such as the libraries
- Referral for university disabled parking permits
- Online access guides are available for buildings and facilities and consideration of scheduled rooms for accessibility, lighting, proximity to other facilities etc
- Interim taxi support to attend teaching sessions



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# Support accessing lectures, seminars and practical sessions

- Lecture recordings
- Learning Support Plan (LSP) or Reasonable Adjustment Plan (RAP)
- Support workers to help students access classes, such as lab support, note takers
- Access to computer equipment and/or specialist assistive software
- Adjustments for presentations and/or group work where appropriate
- Adapted resources
- Resources in advance

## Support to manage your workload

- Support to help with managing your studies or to work on literacy skills  
e.g., Specialist mentor support
- Specialist software
- Additional time for assignments
- Extra borrowing time for books and resources from the library
- Photocopying allowance
- Resources in advance



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# Support with accommodation

- Most universities have some accessible accommodation. Many have quieter blocks or even lower sensory rooms. You may need supporting evidence from medical professionals or the university Disability Services – another good reason to contact them early
- Some universities will guarantee students with some disabilities and needs an accommodation close campus. You can find out about things like this at Open days or online
- Some offer single flats for students who would struggle to live with others
- Early contact with the accommodation team is advised because the spaces are limited
- You might want to check if you can have university accommodation for your full 3 years

# Universities don't usually provide personal assistance support

- For assistance with day-to-day living tasks such as washing, getting dressed, going to the toilet or cooking a student should apply for personal care support through the Social Services department of your local authority by requesting an assessment
- This can take a long time to set up so ideally you would start applying for this asap
- Some charities can help with specialist equipment loans

[Gateway to Care | Calderdale Council](#)

[Getting Social Care Support as an Adult | Help for families | Kirklees SEND Local Offer \(kirkleeslocaloffer.org.uk\)](#)

[Contact adult social care services | Kirklees Council](#)

[I want an assessment | Bradford Council](#)

The logo for Gateway to Care (gjc) is displayed in a large, white, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letters are bold and modern, with the 'g' and 'c' having a slight curve. The logo is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, partially overlapping a dark teal rectangular area.

# How and when to contact Disability Support Services

- Because getting the right support at university can make such a difference to your outcomes and university experience it is important to make contact early
- Setting up support can take time, so it is advisable to tick the disabled box on your UCAS application form and to make early contact. Disclosing this information will not in any way be detrimental to your application and it can prompt the Disability Services to contact you
- You can also contact them directly and the contact details will be on the University website
- Disability Advisors will continue to work with you throughout your time at university to make sure appropriate support is in place at each stage and/or to meet changing needs
- If you are having a year in industry or abroad it is important to talk to them about how you will be supported in that year

# What do Disability Support Services and Disability Advisors do?

- Like ALS, Disability Advisors support students to access their courses and all the opportunities and facilities at their university
- Because support is driven by an individual's needs, Disability Advisors identify and agree a package of support through discussion with the student – like ALS do at the start of the A1 year
- College support does not automatically transfer but ALS can provide a Profile of Support if it will help you think about what has helped you at college
- With your agreement Disability Advisors will share necessary information with the academic departments
- Disability Advisors also look at Access Arrangements for exams and assessments
- Disability Advisors continue to work with students throughout their time at university to make sure appropriate support is in place at each stage and/or to meet changing needs

# DSA

## Disabled Students Allowance

- Is a government funded allowance to cover the cost of specialist support e.g. support workers, specialist equipment, travel etc.
- It goes with you to any university so you can apply before accepting a place.
- DSA is not a loan, it is not means tested and should not affect any family benefits
- It does not usually apply to apprenticeships but there is other support available for these

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Depending on assessed need, DSA can help towards the cost of:

- Specialist equipment, for example a computer or laptop and printer
- Assistive specialist software
- Ergonomic equipment
- Non-medical helpers such as a BSL interpreter
- Extra travel to attend your course or placement because of your disability
- Specialist mentor
- Specialist study skills
- Specialist note taker
- Assistance with travel costs if you cannot use public transport to and from university or a placement



Students apply for **DSA** online when applying for their Student Finance.

**As it can take 14 weeks to process a DSA application and get support in place students should make an early application if they can.**

**There is really helpful information on this short video.**

[DSA: Find Your Way | Understanding the Disabled Students' Allowance and How to Apply \(youtube.com\)](#)

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# Key Points for applying

- You will need to set up your Student Finance England Account (SFE). There is a advice here [Student finance login - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- You will be required to prove eligibility either by completing a Disability Evidence Form together with a copy of a report or letter from your doctor or consultant
- Once eligibility has been established you will be invited to arrange and attend a needs assessment either face to face or online. This is nothing for you to worry about. The assessor is trying to see what support is appropriate for you and your course. Before your assessment it is a good idea to think about how your disability, illness or SpLD affects your life and learning and things that might help
- After the needs assessment the assessor will produce a report making recommendations and will share it with you. The report will also be shared with the Disability Services at your choice of University so they can arrange support and/or reasonable adjustments

Further information is available here : [Disabled Students' Allowance \(DSA\) | Undergraduate, Postgraduate, Conservatoires | UCAS](#) and here [Disabled Students' Allowances \(DSA\) guide 2024 - Save the Student](#)



Good Luck

If you need any help, or  
further information you can  
speak to your Tutor or ALS

