

A parent guide to...the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)

WHO ARE DSAs FOR?

Your child may claim the DSA in addition to their student finance loans and grants to cover any extra study-related costs incurred due to an impairment, mental health condition, or learning difficulty. It is neither a benefit nor a loan, so it doesn't need repaying. The amount they'll receive depends on their individual needs not on your income. Please visit www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/eligibility for more information.

IS MY CHILD ELIGIBLE?

Your child is eligible for a DSA if they meet all the following criteria:

- They are taking a full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate course in the UK (including Open University and distance learning courses) that lasts at least one year.
- They normally live in the UK.
- They qualify for student finance.
- They can prove they have a disability, medical condition, sensory impairment, mental health condition, or specific learning difficulty which affects their ability to study.

DEFINITIONS

A person is defined as disabled under the Equality Act 2010 if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a 'substantial' and 'long-term' negative effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

- 'substantial' is more than minor or trivial, e.g. it takes much longer than it usually would to complete a daily task like getting dressed.
- 'long-term' means 12 months or more, e.g. a breathing condition that develops as a result of a lung infection.

If your child has been formally diagnosed with any of the following, they should make a DSA application:

- **Specific learning difficulty, for example dyslexia, dyspraxia or ADHD.**
- **Medical condition, such as epilepsy, asthma or diabetes.**
- **Mental health condition like anxiety or depression.**
- Physical disability, for example if they're partially sighted or have to use crutches.
- Long-term health condition such as cancer, chronic heart disease or HIV.

Students with specific learning difficulties will need an up to date assessment (after they have turned 16). CLF P16 work closely with a practitioner qualified to undertake dyslexia assessments (**please note: there is a cost**). Please see your Student Support Leader for more information.