

Help for Higher Education Students.

University Disability Officers offer specialist advice about all aspects of support. Dyslexic students should contact their DO as soon as they accept a place.

1. Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)

Dyslexic students in Higher Education, who have been assessed as dyslexic, from 2009 now have to apply to **Student Finance England** rather than their Local Education Authority (LEA) for a DSA. (see details below) Part-time students, studying at least 50% of a full-time degree course and post-graduate students are now eligible for this allowance.

Students should apply as soon as they know they are going to be attending a degree level course, as the assessment procedure can take some time and this can delay receiving things like computer equipment. If you tick the relevant box on your main student finance application, you will be sent a copy of the DSA1 form automatically, or you can download one from Student Finance England.

Starting your course in 2009/2010?

If you're a new student starting your course in academic year 2009/2010, you should send completed paper forms and evidence to:

Student Finance England

PO Box 210

Darlington, DL1 9HJ

0845 300 50 90

Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 8.00 pm; Saturday and Sunday 9.00 am to 5.30 pm

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/D11/Directories/UsefulContactsByCategory/EducationAndLearningContacts/DG_172310

Started your course in 2008/2009 or earlier?

If you started your course in academic year 2008/2009 or earlier, you'll usually need to send completed paper forms and evidence to your local authority.

CORNWALL Student Services

Camel Building, Cornwall County Council

New County Hall, Truro
CORNWALL, TR1 3AY
Tel : 01872 322400
Fax : 01872 323839
Email : askstudentservices@cornwall.gov.uk

If you have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, you must provide evidence in the form of a 'diagnostic assessment' from a psychologist or suitably qualified specialist teacher. If you have had a diagnostic assessment in the past, it may need to be updated. You may have to pay for any tests to establish your eligibility for Disabled Students' Allowances. If you need a test but cannot afford to pay for it, you may be able to get financial help through your university or college's Access to Learning Fund.

If you are eligible for a DSA, you will be sent to an **ACCESS Centre**, in Plymouth, which can assess the needs of disabled students including ICT. National Federation of Access Centres (NFAC). www.nnac.org.uk

The DSA may include equipment, such as a PC, hardware and appropriate software. An annual non-medical helper's allowance, which can include funding for ICT training, proof-reading, and an annual general allowance for books etc. See Bridging the Gap, below, for full details.

2. Useful publications

The DfES Leaflet 'Bridging The Gap - A Guide To Disabled Students Allowance (DSAs) in higher education' gives details of the allowances and can be downloaded from the DfES website.

Web:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898

Tel: 0845 300 50 90

University disability awareness publications e.g. Understanding Dyslexia: An Introduction for Dyslexic Students in Higher Education. Glasgow School of Art.

http://www.sfc.ac.uk/publications/pubs_other_shefcarchive/understanding_dyslexia.pdf

3. Further sources of information

The Open University.

Open University, Disabled Student Services.

Tel: 01908 655 354

E-Mail: Disabled-Student-Services@open.ac.uk

Web: <http://www.open.ac.uk/>

SKILL. The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities. Skill has helpful general information and literature, especially about allowances for disabled students and about many charities and grant making trusts.

Tel: 0800 328 5050

Fax: 020 7450 0650

E-Mail: info@skill.org.uk

Web: www.skill.org.uk

National Union of Students Students with Disabilities

www.nus.org.uk

disabled@nus.org.uk

Tel: 0871 221 8221

NUS Booklet for students with disabilities:

<http://resource.nusonline.co.uk/media/resource/10.%20template%20a-z%20lgbt%20SWD.DOC>

Information for dyslexic nursing students.

NHS grants for nursing students etc.

Tel: 0845 358 6655

Web: www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk

The Educational Grants Advisory Service (EGAS) offers guidance about loans, grants and benefits from educational trusts and charities for disadvantaged students over 16. Send an SAE or phone for a form for completion, to enable EGAS to give you appropriate advice.

Address: 501-505 Kingsland Road, London, E8 4AU.

Tel: 020 7254 6251

Web: www.egas-online.org

Scholarship Search UK.

Academic Scholarships and Bursaries for UK Universities and Educational Institutions.

Web: www.scholarship-search.org.uk

FunderFinder has links to fund-raising resources and to a wide range of trusts (not all educational).

Web: www.funderfinder.org.uk

The Educational Grants Directory and other books. Libraries and careers offices may have reference copies. Available from the Directory of Social Change:

Tel: 08450 77 77 07

Email: publications@dsc.org.uk

E-mail: info@dsc.org.uk

Web: www.dsc.org.uk