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SFE/DSAKS/1213

## DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES (DSAs)

**Key steps in applying for extra help for your studies**



Thinking about what you're going to study, the support you'll need and how you're going to pay for it?

**Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)** are grants to help you with the extra course costs you might face as a result of a disability, ongoing health condition, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty like dyslexia. DSAs don't need to be paid back and can help pay for:

- specialist equipment you need for studying, like computer software;
- non-medical helpers, for example, a note-taker or reader;
- additional travel costs you pay as a direct result of your disability and
- other costs like photocopying or printer cartridges



Go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) **NOW** to apply for student finance.



If you are an Open University (OU) student you should apply to the OU for DSAs. Go to [www.open.ac.uk/dsa](http://www.open.ac.uk/dsa)

Students studying a course funded by the NHS can find further information on how to apply for DSAs at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx)

## Three top tips to fast-track your application for DSAs

Here are the things you can do to ensure your Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are paid out as quickly as possible and all your support is in place by the start of term:

- ✓ **Apply Now** as the application process can take around 14 weeks
- ✓ **Book your needs assessment as soon as you get your eligibility notification**
- ✓ **Order your equipment and arrange your other support as soon as you get your entitlement notification**

For further information or to apply go to  
[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)



**Step 1** Go to [www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance) **NOW** and apply for student finance



Click on the option to apply for Disabled Students' Allowances in the main application. This will automatically trigger a shortened version of the DSA application form (DSASL) to be posted out to you to complete and return to Student Finance England (SFE). You can also download this version of the form from [www.direct.gov.uk/sfforms2012](http://www.direct.gov.uk/sfforms2012). Fill this in and return it to SFE. If you're only applying for DSAs and no other form of student finance, download the long DSA application form (DSA1F) from [www.direct.gov.uk/sfforms2012](http://www.direct.gov.uk/sfforms2012). Fill this in and return it to SFE.

**Top tips**



Make sure you apply for your Maintenance Loan, Tuition Fee Loan, bursaries and other grants before the 31 May 2012. There is no deadline for applying for DSAs but the sooner you apply the greater the chance of having everything you need in place for the start of your course.

**Step 2** Receive your eligibility notification

If you're eligible for DSAs we will write and tell you to arrange a needs assessment to find out exactly what equipment and support you need.

**Step 3** Book your needs assessment

You should book your assessment as soon as you receive notification of your eligibility. To find your nearest approved needs assessment centre go to [www.dsa-qag.org.uk](http://www.dsa-qag.org.uk)

**Step 4** Receive your entitlement notification

Once we receive the results of your needs assessment, we will write and let you know if DSAs can pay for any specialist equipment and other support that was recommended in your needs assessment report. We will also give you instructions for ordering equipment or arranging other support.

**Step 5** Order your equipment and arrange your other support

**Step 6** Start your course

For more information about student finance go online to

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)