



CONTACT
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How to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance - the Contact Associates guide

50% of eligible students don't know about Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs). Contact Associates wants to change that. Last year, we helped more than 15,000 students to claim DSAs worth £30m and, this year, we want to make sure that you get the extra support that you're entitled to so that you really shine while you study.

What is the Disabled Students' Allowance?

DSAs are non-means-tested, non-repayable grants that give you extra support while you're at college or university.

You're eligible for one if you live in the UK and can show that you have any of the following:

- a long-term health condition
- a learning difficulty like dyslexia, ADHD or dyspraxia
- a physical disability
- a mental health condition such as depression or anxiety.

You also have to be on these higher education courses:

- full-time and part-time
- unpaid sandwich
- open and distance learning
- postgraduate.



How to apply: our step-by-step guide

Applying for a DSA is quick, easy and safe.

You don't have to undergo a long and complicated means test and you don't have to travel to an assessment centre. You don't even have to have got a place confirmed at college or university yet. Simply answer a few questions online to see if you're eligible and, if you are, our assessors can discuss your support requirements with you remotely.

Simply follow these four steps to apply for a grant.

Step 1: Check that you're eligible

You can do this quickly with our online eligibility checker. Just answer a few simple questions and we can determine if you are eligible and take you through your next steps

[Check your eligibility here](#)

Step 2: Apply for a DSA

You don't have to have a confirmed place at university or college before you apply for your DSA. It's best to apply as early as possible, so you have one in place before your course starts, but you can do it at any point during your studies.

When you apply for student finance, let the provider know that you want to apply for the DSA too. You can then apply online or download an application form



Full-time students

If you've already applied for student finance

Sign into your student finance account to start your DSA application.

The application should be on your to-do list if you chose DSA in your application for other support. If it isn't, select 'change your circumstances' to apply.

If you don't have an online account because you applied for student finance by post, fill in a student finance form (form DSA1).

If you haven't applied for student finance

You can apply for a DSA when you apply for student finance online.

If you don't need student finance, you can fill in a student finance form (form DSA1) to apply just for a DSA.

You can't apply for student finance online once you've applied for a DSA.

Part-time students

Fill in a student finance form (form DSA1) to apply for a DSA.

If you're already getting a DSA

Fill in a student finance form (form DSA1) to claim back your expenses.

You'll be asked to provide proof of your condition (such as a diagnostic assessment of dyslexia or a letter from your hospital consultant) along with the completed DSA application form

Step 3: Book a study needs assessment

If you're eligible for a DSA, you'll receive an approval letter from your DSA funding provider and you'll be asked to attend a needs assessment at a centre of your choice, to explore your course requirements and your learning needs.

The letter will direct you to a website where you can search for your nearest assessment centre, however the quickest way to book an assessment is just to contact us directly. All assessment booking can be done online, via email or phone - whichever suits you best.

How to book:

Book online at www.contact-associates.co.uk

Phone [01823 273060](tel:01823273060)

Email admin@contact-associates.co.uk

Step 4: Your assessment:

You don't need to worry about travelling to an assessment centre: we can assess you quickly by phone or video chat.

You'll get confirmation of whether your application is successful within six weeks. You'll receive a DS2 Entitlement letter, explaining what equipment and support you'll need for your course and how to get it

The details of your DSA and needs assessment report will then be sent to your university or college disability adviser, who will arrange for any support or adjustments that you need.



Find out more about Contact Associates

We deliver high-quality assessments, which enable students with disabilities or other health conditions to access the specialist equipment, DSA help and support they need to fulfil their potential at university or college.

Find out more at: www.contact-associates.co.uk