

MEDICAL EVIDENCE REQUIRED FOR DISABLED STUDENT ALLOWANCES 2022/23

Eligibility for Disabled Students' Allowances

The Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) help to meet the extra costs you may have when studying your course due to your disability, mental-health condition or specific learning difficulty.

The allowances can help with the cost of

- non-medical helper;
- items of specialist equipment;
- travel;
- general course-related costs.

To determine eligibility for DSAs you will need to forward supporting evidence of your disability or learning difficulty. This evidence will also be used by your Disability Adviser when assessing your needs. The more detailed the evidence the easier it will be to determine eligibility for DSA and for assessing your requirements.

Medical Evidence – General Guidance

If you have a physical impairment, a mental-health or medical condition you will need to provide evidence of this such as a letter from your doctor or specialist or a Disability Evidence Form completed by your doctor which can be downloaded from www.studentfinancenl.co.uk. (*You can get versions in large print, in Braille and on audio by phoning our publication line on 0141 243 3686.*)

If you have more than one medical condition, you should provide evidence for each condition.

Ideally the medical information provided should:

- State nature of disability;
- Briefly outline the effect the disability may have on your academic performance;
- State the impact, if known, on normal day to day activities. For example, does the condition effect: concentration, motivation, writing for long periods, use of computers, mobility etc

The list is not exhaustive and merely includes examples of the kind of evidence required. Doctors/Specialists may include any further information that is relevant to your ability to undertake study in further and higher education.

For students with Dyspraxia, AD(H)D, Acquired Dyslexia, Dysgraphia, Speech and Language Disorder, Auditory Processing Disorder or Tourettes, a standard medical evidence letter from a GP or completed Medical Evidence form will be acceptable.

A Clinical Psychologist or a GP can confirm a diagnosis of ADHD, Autism or Asperger's.

To be considered long term, the effect of the disability must have lasted or be likely to last at least 12 months or for the rest of the student's life.

NB - DSAs are not intended to provide assistance to members of the general student population who suffer temporary illness or injury.

- DSAs are not intended to assist with disability-related expenditure that the student would continue to incur if they were not following their course.

Specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia or dyscalculia)

If you have a specific learning difficulty, Studentfinanceneni will need evidence of this in the form of a "diagnostic assessment". This is an assessment carried out by a suitably qualified psychologist or specialist teacher holding a current SpLD Assessment Practising Certificate. **Please note that written confirmation of additional time for school exams or results of tests carried out at schools for exam purposes is not a full diagnostic assessment and is not sufficient evidence of dyslexia or a SpLD for SFNI to approve eligibility to DSA.**

If you need an assessment to establish your eligibility for DSAs, but cannot afford the fee, you may be eligible to apply to your university or college for help in meeting the costs. The university's or college's Disability Adviser may be able to give you more information about applying for assistance from any of their funds.

If you already have evidence and are not sure if it is detailed enough please send it with your application and the DSA Officer will advise if it is sufficient or if further evidence is required.

Please be advised that any costs involved in obtaining this evidence for determining eligibility for DSA cannot be met by StudentFinanceneni nor be taken from your DSA funds.

If you have any queries you can contact your DSA Officer: