



Advice guide 2: Applying for Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) through NHS Student Bursaries

What are Disabled Students' Allowance (DSAs)?

DSAs help to pay for any extra costs to cover a student's support needs arising as a result of their disability. These may include specialist equipment and software, non-medical helper support (e.g. study skills tuition, mentoring), general expenses and travel costs.

Will the student have to pay this back?

The allowance is not means-tested, it is not repayable, it does not affect benefits and there is no age limit. The funding is administered through NHS Business Services Authority.

How does the student know if they are eligible?

The student has to be on a full-time or part-time undergraduate or postgraduate course **and be in receipt of an NHS Student Bursary**. The student has to be able to evidence that they have a disability (e.g. medical condition, long term illness, physical impairment, sensory impairment, mental-health condition or a specific learning difficulty) which impacts on their ability to study.

A student cannot receive Disabled Students' Allowances if they are:

- accessing support equivalent to DSAs from another funding provider
- an EU/International student
- undertaking a full year, paid work placement as part of a sandwich-course.
- accessing more than one course at the same time
- already in receipt of DSAs

How does the student apply for DSAs?

The student will need to complete a DSA application form by logging into their online BOSS account via: <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhssb/login>

They should then click on the link on their homepage that says 'apply for DSA' and complete the online form. The student will need to submit medical evidence of their disability along with their application. This needs to come from a medical professional i.e. GP, Consultant, Psychiatrist.





The evidence must clearly state:

- Diagnosis.
- How long their condition has had an impact/is likely to have an impact (this needs to be long term).
- Examples of how their condition impacts on them **currently** on a daily basis.

For a Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. Dyslexia), the evidence needed is different:

The NHS will require a full diagnostic assessment carried out by an Educational Psychologist or a suitably qualified specialist teacher holding a current Assessment Practicing Certificate. The report should use the format and tests recommended in The SpLD Assessment Standards Committee [SASC] 2013 Testing and Assessment Guidance Document, which can be found at the following link: <http://www.sasc.org.uk/>

If the student does not already have this evidence, they will need to contact Disability Services by emailing studentlife@tees.ac.uk or calling 01642 342277. An adviser will then be able to support the student with gaining a full diagnostic assessment as above.

If you have more than one disability/condition you will need to submit appropriate evidence of both.

The student can contact their Disability Adviser if they require support with their application.

What happens after they have applied for DSAs?

The student will receive a letter from NHS Student Bursaries to confirm whether their application has been accepted or rejected. This will also appear on their correspondence in their BOSS account.

If the evidence is accepted, the student will be asked to book a Study Needs Assessment. The student should refer to the help sheet on 'Arranging a Study Needs Assessment' for information and guidance on how to do this.

If the evidence is rejected, the student should contact their Disability Adviser who can support them with gaining additional evidence if needed.

For more information

W: [NHS Disabled Students Allowances](#)

W: <https://www.tees.ac.uk/sections/stud/disability>

E: studentlife@tees.ac.uk

T: 01642 342277

