

## **The Needs Assessment Appointment**

This is an appointment at which an accredited Assessor meets with the student to set out an individual bespoke package of support; the Assessor demonstrates and recommends specific hardware/ one to one support / software based on disability related need within the context of the course. The ensuing report specifies the costs and identifies suppliers who will provide each strategy. The recommendations are subsequently sent by the Assessment Centre to the funding body for approval /action.

The Needs Assessment can only take place at an accredited Assessment Centre.

Students can attend any centre regardless of their host HEI. If the student subsequently enrolls/ transfers elsewhere the Needs Assessment can be revisited and adapted if necessary.

A student may only book a Needs Assessment when they have received specific authorisation to do so from their funding body, (SFE/SFNI/SFW/SAAS/NHS)- having first submitted DSA application and evidence to support their disability.

The process is not as complex as it sounds; the Disability Adviser will coach the student through each phase.

Needs Assessments can be undertaken prior to starting your HE course- so that equipment and support is in place ready for the start of term.

However students can engage with the process at any point during their HE studies, although the earlier the better in order to redress the impact of their disability/ specific learning difficulty/ chronic health condition of persistent mental health issue upon their academic experience/ performance.

Use of DSA funded support does make a positive difference to academic performance and experience of disabled/ dyslexic students within the HE system!