

What is DSA?

Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) is an academic budget, issued by the UK Government to cover the cost of support strategies needed by disabled students in HE. It is for UK students only. It is issued by the following UK funding bodies:

SFE -Student Finance England

SFW – Student Finance Wales

SFNI – Student Finance Northern Ireland

SAAS - Student Awards Agency for Scotland

NHS- for specific NHS funded courses

DSA does not come as money! The budgets cover the cost of the support strategies needed by the student – as determined by a Needs Assessment process. It is available for both full time students and part-time students who are studying at least 25% of the full-time equivalent; it is for students on: HNC / HND/ Foundation degree/Degree / post graduate courses.

The equipment budget may buy computing equipment/ ergonomic seating/ recording devices/ assistive software/ and other academic related equipment; the non-medical helpers' budget is available to cover the costs of mentor support/ study skills support/ BSL interpreter support; there is a general allowance for agreed additional costs and there is also a budget for disability related travel in certain circumstances!

Each budget is devised based on what the student needs as a result of their disability/ specific learning difficulty/ health condition or mental health issue. **It is not means tested! It is not subject to repayment!**

The Disability Adviser will be able to coach each student through the application process for this.