

You need to right down your Customer Reference Number on every document you send us.

Student Finance England
PO Box 210
Darlington
DH1 9HJ

www.gov.uk/studentfinance
0300 100 0607

Date: 1 January 2021
Customer Reference Number: **010101010**

Dear Mr Bloggs,

We've approved your Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) 2020/21

We've received your Study Needs Assessment report and can now confirm what support you're entitled to. The following information shows what DSAs you've been awarded and what you need to do next. We've also enclosed a helpful Frequently Asked Questions about your DSAs.

Keep this letter because you'll need to refer to it again.

You must be registered on and attending your course to be entitled to support. If you leave or don't start your course you must let us know as soon as possible.

If you have any queries regarding your support please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours Sincerely,

Student Finance England

We've also sent a copy of this letter to your Disability Adviser and Needs Assessor

Your DSAs

Specialist Equipment Allowance

Item	Supplier	Contact Details	Quote Number	Amount you'll pay the supplier	Amount we'll pay the supplier
Equipment	Example Equipment Supplier Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example.com equipmentsupplier.co.uk	EES1234567	£200.00	£1234.56

Your next steps

1. You will need to contact the supplier(s) to arrange your support.
2. Pay the supplier £200.00 towards the cost of the agreed computer. All students are required to pay a contribution of £200.00 towards their agreed computer; we'll pay the rest of the computer cost.

The supplier will want to see a copy of this letter to confirm the agreement they will then invoice us directly for the agreed amount. If you've any issues with the equipment you should contact the supplier.

Insurance

Insurance is important and is included as a part of your equipment package from the date you receive your equipment. You must ensure you read the terms and conditions of the insurance when you receive your equipment.

DSAs can't be used to meet the cost of replacement equipment when the original has been lost, stolen or damaged.

Item	Supplier	Contact Details	Amount you'll pay the supplier	Amount we'll pay the supplier
Example Assistive Technology Subscription (first year)	Example AT Supplier Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example.com ATsupplier.co.uk	£0	£789.00
Example Assistive Technology Subscription (21/22 and 22/23)	Example AT Supplier Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example.com ATsupplier.co.uk	£0	The supplier will invoice us directly for the product.

Your next steps

Contact Example AT Supplier Ltd to arrange a single year subscription.

If you'd like to continue using example Assistive Technology Subscription once your initial subscription has expired, please contact them to renew it.

The supplier will want to see a copy of this letter to confirm the agreement, they will then invoice us directly for the agreed amount. If you've any issues with the product you should contact the supplier.

Non-Medical Helper's Allowance

Item	Supplier	Contact Details	Duration	Amount we'll pay the supplier
Assistive Technology Training	Example ATT Supplier Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example ATTsupplier.co.uk	2 x 3 hour sessions	£123.00 (+VAT) per session
Specialist Mentor	SM company Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example SMltd.co.uk	30 hours per year	£45 (+VAT) per hour
Specialist One to One Study Support	S1:1 Ltd	0000 123 4567 email@example s11.co.uk	30 hours per year	£56 (+VAT) per hour
<p>Your next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You will need to contact the above supplier(s) to arrange the support 2. You'll receive the support at the arranged time and need to sign timesheets to confirm the support has been provided. <p>The provider will invoice us directly to cover the cost of the support.</p>				

EXAMPLE ONLY

General Allowance Please note you'll need to pay the following support upfront. We'll be happy to reimburse you for any items agreed once we receive receipts.

Item	Amount available to you
Photocopying and Printing Costs / Ink and Paper	Up to £182.00 per year
<p>Your next steps</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Purchase any items listed above that you require for your course 2. Submit your claim along with copies of receipts for the items. 3. We'll reimburse the amount directly to your bank account once the claim has been processed. <p>You can use this allowance for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • photocopying and printing costs • ink and paper suitable for your printer <p>You can't use it for specialised paper or stationery such as photo paper, glossy paper, matt paper, brown paper, cardboard paper, refill pads, notebooks, post-its, wall planners, flipcharts, diaries or card. Ink pens and ink refill pens are also not covered.</p> <p>Receipts must show the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date • Amount that has been paid • Item description <p>If you applied for DSAs online</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Get a clear and readable digital copy of your receipts. You can take a photograph or scan to do this. 2. Go to www.gov.uk/student-finance-register-login 3. Sign in with your student finance login details. 4. Go to the DSAs section of your account. 5. Upload your receipts and click submit. <p>If you are unable to provide evidence online or applied for DSAs by paper</p> <p>You can email a copy to us at dsa_team@slc.co.uk, or send it to us by post:</p> <p>Student Finance England PO Box 210 Darlington DL1 9HJ</p> <p>Please note, only items purchased after the date of agreement and before your course end date can be refunded.</p>	

The following is paid from your General Allowance but we'll pay the supplier directly.

Item	Supplier	Amount we pay to the supplier
Study Needs Assessment Fee	Your Assessment Centre	£650.00

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How To Contact Us

Phone: 0300 100 0607

Post: Student Finance England, PO Box 210, Darlington, DL1 9HJ

Email: dsa_team@slc.co.uk

Please ensure you use the email address registered on your account and that you state your full name and customer reference number. This will help us to answer your query without any delays.

You can also visit our website at www.gov.uk/studentfinance for more information.

Part Time and Postgraduate Allowances

Are my allowances different if I'm a part-time student?

Part-time allowances for Non Medical Help and General Allowance are based on your intensity of part-time study and the academic year in which you are studying. The Equipment Allowance is the same for full time and part time, regardless of intensity.

Intensity of study	Equipment Allowance (per course)			Non Medical Helper Allowance (per year)			General Allowance (per year)		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
25%	£5,529	£5,684	£5,849	£5,496	£5,651	£5,815	£462	£475	£489
50%				£10,992	£11,302	£11,629	£924	£950	£977
60%				£13,192	£13,562	£13,955	£1,108	£1,139	£1,172
75%				£16,489	£16,951	£17,443	£1,385	£1,424	£1,465

These figures are the maximum amounts - most students get less.

Are my allowances different if I'm a postgraduate student?

For postgraduate students (both full-time and part-time) there's a single allowance of up to £10,993 (18/19), £20,000 (19/20), £20,580 (20/21) a year. This single allowance is used for all areas of DSA; equipment, non medical help, general allowance and travel.

Equipment

What if I feel I need additional equipment?

If you require equipment that hasn't been agreed as part of your DSAs entitlement, you'll need to contact your Needs Assessor to discuss your requirements.

I would like to upgrade my equipment to a higher specification/different model, how do I do this?

If you want to upgrade your equipment you'll need to pay any extra costs for this. To upgrade, contact the supplier to discuss what equipment you would prefer. The supplier will tell you if this meets the minimum specification and if it will run your recommended software. They'll also advise on the extra costs for the upgrade. The supplier will then invoice us for the amount we've agreed to cover with your DSAs and will then invoice you for the extra costs for the upgrade.

I would like to change the DSA approved equipment supplier, how do I do this?

It's possible to change the provider of your equipment. If you wish to do this, please email the DSA Team with your request to change provider before you contact the authorised supplier to process your order. Your email will need to include the following information:

- reason for changing provider
- name and contact details of new provider

Please note that we can only pay up to the amount agreed within this letter. You can find out the amount we'll pay by checking the 'Your DSAs' section of this letter.

Can I purchase a computer from the internet or high street supplier?

If you want to purchase your own computer you need to email us for further information. Reimbursement can only be provided for a computer; all the remaining equipment and software must be purchased from the agreed supplier.

My equipment is faulty/not working properly, what do I do?

If you experience any issues with your equipment whilst it's under warranty, you'll need to contact your equipment supplier.

If you experience any issues with your equipment when it's no longer under warranty, you'll need to contact the DSA Team by email.

I have some questions about my equipment / I am not happy with the quality of my equipment, what do I do?

In the first instance you should contact your equipment supplier to discuss your queries/concerns. If this remains unresolved, you'll need to contact the DSA Team by email.

Non Medical Help

What should I expect from my non-medical help support?

The purpose of DSA-funded non-medical help support is to enable you to demonstrate your academic ability and enable your independence. Non-medical help support should suit your learning needs and be compatible with your course and programme of study.

What if I miss or need to cancel a non-medical helper support appointment?

Your provider can charge for any missed or cancelled appointments if you've not given reasonable notice (this is usually 24 hours but you should check this with your provider).

I feel I need additional or different non-medical helper support, who do I contact?

If you require additional non-medical helper support (not including assistive technology training) or feel different support is required, you'll need to contact your Needs Assessor to discuss your requirements.

I feel I need assistive technology training or need more than initially agreed, who do I contact?

If you require assistive technology training that hasn't been agreed as part of your DSAs entitlement, you'll need to contact your Needs Assessor to discuss your requirements.

Can I change to another non medical help provider if they are unable to meet my needs?

If you wish to do this, please email the DSA Team with your request to change provider. Your email will need to include the following information:

- type of support you want to change (e.g. assistive technology training, mentor support, etc.)
- full explanation of why you want to change and why your current provider is not suitable/unable to meet your needs

Please note, SFE can only consider change of NMH provider requests if you are not satisfied with the service being provided and you have spoken with your provider to try to rectify any issues. A full explanation for your reasons must be provided. We cannot change your provider if you have not accessed/tried to access the support from your current agreed provider.

Also please be aware that if we agree to a change in provider, we will request new quotes from your Needs Assessor and write to you with the details of your new provider. You will not be permitted to choose your own provider.

Do I need to sign timesheets for the non-medical helper support I receive?

Your provider needs to provide signed timesheets when invoicing us as this will confirm you've received the support. You shouldn't sign any timesheets before you receive support.

Non Medical Help Framework – Registered Providers

On the 28th April 2016 a Non-Medical Help (NMH) Quality Assurance Framework was introduced. From that date all NMH providers must register in order to be considered to provide support. As an exception, any student who was already in receipt of a type of NMH support has been allowed to continue to use their NMH provider, and will be allowed to do so until the end of their course.

In addition, where students continue from an undergraduate course to a postgraduate course without a break and continue at the same Higher Education Provider, their current NMH provider can continue to provide support if they remain unregistered.

Where students break their study between postgraduate and undergraduate courses, or change their Higher Education Provider, new approved NMH providers must be used. As is the case now, all new types of support will only be agreed with an NMH provider who is approved.

Change of Circumstances

My circumstances have changed, what do I do?

If your circumstances change this may affect your support. For example, if you've changed university or college the supplier of your non-medical helpers support may need changing. You need to email the DSA Team advising of any changes so we can ensure that your correct entitlement is in place.

My medical condition has worsened/I have an additional medical condition, what do I do?

If you've a medical condition(s) that hasn't been taken into account during your Study Needs Assessment, or your medical condition worsens you need to send us a copy of your medical evidence.

Medical evidence for a new condition must confirm:

- a diagnosis of your condition
- your condition is long term (more than 12 months)
- how your condition has an adverse effect on your ability to carry out daily activities

Medical evidence for the worsening of a condition must confirm:

- how your condition has changed/worsened since your Study Needs Assessment
- that the change is permanent or long term (not temporary)

Once we receive acceptable medical evidence we'll write to you to confirm if you can attend a review at the Needs Assessment Centre where your previous assessment was carried out. Your Needs Assessor will make recommendations for any support you may need as a result of a new condition.

Do I need to apply every year for my DSA?

You only need to apply every academic year on a DSA full form for DSAs if you:

- are a postgraduate student
- are a part-time student
- only get DSA funding (i.e. no tuition fees/maintenance loan etc.)

You don't need to provide medical evidence and ID every year if you're continuing on the same course at the same university or college.