



University of
Sheffield

Disability Support at University

Joe Doherty
Recruitment Officer

**RUSSELL
GROUP**

A WORLD
TOP 100
UNIVERSITY

Today's information session

- Who can access support through the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service?
- What types of support are available?
- Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA)
- Lizzie will share her experiences of accessing the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service (DDSS)
- Question and answer session



Who can access support?

- If you have a long-term impairment or condition that has an impact on your studies, you can access academic support and adjustments (Equality Act 2010)
- These impacts - and the barriers that people might encounter on a course - vary significantly, but could be in one or more of the following areas:
 - sitting exams
 - attending classes
 - taking notes in class
 - delivering presentations
 - reading, planning and writing assignments
 - group work

If you're accessing support at sixth form/college e.g., exam arrangements, you're likely to be eligible for support in HE.

This includes students who

- have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD)/learning difference like dyslexia or dyspraxia
- have a mental health condition like depression or an anxiety disorder
- have a long-standing illness or health condition like epilepsy, diabetes or chronic fatigue syndrome
- are autistic
- have a neurodevelopmental condition like ADHD
- have a physical impairment or mobility difficulty
- are blind or partially sighted
- are D/deaf or hearing impaired
- have a speech, language or communication difficulty (e.g. a stammer)

This list isn't exhaustive. If you're not sure if support is available, contact the disability service.

DDSS Disability Advisers

- Named point of contact for applicants/students
- Support is identified through a discussion between you and your Disability Adviser
- Advisers work to ensure that students have equal access to courses, opportunities, and facilities
- Guide students to think about their academic support needs at university and put support in place:
 - Student shares information about impairment/condition
 - Identifying potential barriers in the university setting - how does this impairment/condition affect study
 - What is needed to remove the barriers

What support is available?

- The support you access will depend on your individual support needs
- Some of the support comes through the university's disability service and some through DSA
- Depending on your individual needs this might include support with...

What support is available?

Transition Support

- Transition activities: <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/new-students/disability/transition-university>
- One-to-one orientation support to help you get used to the university environment and find your way round

Accessing taught sessions

- Learning Support Plan - recommends support and adjustments that academic departments can make e.g., lecture notes available in advance; group work; presentations; timetabling recommendations.
- Lecture recordings/note taking software

What support is available?

Exam support adjustments

Extra time; rest or nutrition breaks; use of a computer, sit exams in a venue with fewer candidates

Access to/around the campus

- 'AccessAble' access guides for university buildings and facilities, including route guides to assist travel around campus
- Timetable adjustments e.g., classes in lift accessible; time to move between classes
- Personal assistants to support access to classes and university facilities e.g., library support; lab
- Regular/emergency taxi to attend teaching sessions

What support is available?

Managing your workload

- Face to face support to help with managing your studies or to work on literacy skills
 - Specialist mentor support
 - Study Skills Tutor
 - Specialist Support Professionals (to provide language support etc for deaf students)
- Access to computer equipment or assistive software
- Mental Health Advisers

How to set up disability service support

- Complete disability section on your UCAS form or contact the disability service (contact us directly)
- Send diagnostic evidence (even if it is incomplete): disability.info@sheffield.ac.uk
- Have contact with a Disability Adviser to discuss your support needs
- University disability service support AND DSA – make use of both!

Evidence

DDSS and DSA and will need evidence to put support in place

Evidence for medical conditions, autism, ADHD etc

- Diagnostic report, medical letter or report from a GP or other medical consultant
- Confirms your diagnosis and provides information about the day-to-day impact
- If you don't have this evidence: DDSS applicant evidence form

Evidence for a specific learning difficulty (dyslexia, dyspraxia)

A full SpLD diagnostic assessment report that

- has been produced by a practitioner psychologist or by a specialist teacher
- contains a clear diagnosis



Disabled Students'

Allowance

Eligibility

You can apply for DSA if you can provide written evidence that you're a disabled person according to the Equality Act 2010 definition of disability

- You will also need to be a UK national who is ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of your course (ie this is where you usually live apart from occasional absences, eg holidays); **and**
- have been living in the UK for three years prior to your course start date, and not solely for the purpose of getting full-time education; **or**
- have acquired settled status to live permanently in the UK without time restrictions imposed by the Home Office

How to Apply – Step 1

You will apply for DSA through Student Finance England and can apply any time after you've applied to study on your course

As part of your application you must submit written evidence confirming the nature and impact of your disability.

How to Apply – Step 2

If your funding body has deemed you eligible for DSA, they'll ask you to attend an 'assessment of need' appointment. The needs assessment aims to identify barriers to learning you encounter and identify support that could help. A report summarising the support that you agree it would be useful to have access to will then be sent to your funding body.

For students applying for DSA from either Student Finance England or Student Finance Wales you will be allocated one of two suppliers - either Capita or Study Tech.

How to Apply – Step 3

- 1. After your meeting, the assessor will draft a ‘needs assessment report’ which will recommend your individual DSA-funded package of support.**
- 2. If you’re happy with the report, you’ll then sign it and copies will be sent to us and your funding body.**
- 3. Your funding body will review the report and send you a letter confirming the support they’ll provide funding for. We’ll also be sent a copy.**

Your confirmation letter will inform you how to order equipment and arrange training. Some support, such as referrals for support workers, must be arranged through us.

- 4. When we receive confirmation of your DSA funding entitlement, we’ll email you to arrange a meeting with a disability advisor to discuss the support you’ve received funding for, and set it up.**

A person with blonde hair tied in a bun, wearing a light-colored t-shirt, is sitting at a long, light-colored desk. They are facing away from the camera, looking out a large window. On the desk, there is a laptop, some papers, and a water bottle. The window provides a panoramic view of a city with various buildings and a green hill in the background under a cloudy sky.

Q&A

Disability.transitions@sheffield.ac.uk