

# **Disabled Students' Allowances**

**Proof of disability  
or  
medical condition**

Disability Advice and Support

## **Who is this booklet for?**

This information is for anyone applying to university or studying at De Montfort University who has one or more of the following which has an effect on their studies:

- A permanent disability
- A temporary disability, lasting longer than six months
- A medical condition, lasting longer than six months.

and wants to know what proof of their disability or medical condition is required by their Funding Provider when applying for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs).

If you have a medical condition which affects your studies, but will last less than six months, you are not eligible to apply for support from the DSAs.

## **What type of information will my Funding Provider need?**

You must be able to prove that you have a disability or medical condition that will affect or is affecting your studies at university. This must be formal, written information.

## **What type of written information should I obtain?**

In most cases, a letter from your GP or Consultant, regarding your disability or medical condition. The amount of information in letters varies, so as a guide it should contain the following:

- A diagnosis or statement of your condition or disability
- Information about how this affects you
- If possible, the likely impact of this on your studies
- For temporary disabilities or conditions, the likely duration
- Any medication you take to manage your condition

- Whether the medication has side effects, a brief description of these and their impact
- Whether your disability or condition is stable
- The severity of your disability or condition.

It can also be important that the letter is recent. For example, if a letter states that the GP expects the condition to last for six months, but it was written six or more months ago, it will be necessary to obtain an up-to-date letter.

Additionally, your condition may have improved or deteriorated, and it is vital that your letter is recent enough to reflect this, and therefore gives an accurate picture of the current effect of your condition or disability on your university studies.

### **If my GP charges for writing a letter, will my Funding Provider or the University help me pay for it?**

No, they will not pay to prove a disability or medical condition.

### **Should I apply for the Disabled Students' Allowances before I start university?**

Yes, if possible. The application process can take several months and failure to apply can delay your support

## **Useful contacts and resources**

### **Disability Advice and Support**

The contact details for Disability Advice and Support at De Montfort University are:

T: (0116) 257 7595

E: [disability@dmu.ac.uk](mailto:disability@dmu.ac.uk).

W: [dmu.ac.uk/disability](http://dmu.ac.uk/disability)

Student Gateway  
Disability Advice and Support  
Student and Academic Services  
De Montfort University  
The Gateway  
Leicester LE1 9BH.

### **Mental Health Adviser**

The University's Mental Health Adviser can be contacted by telephone via (0116) 257 7595.

### **Faculty Disability Officers**

Each Faculty has a Faculty Disability Officer as follows:

#### **Business & Law**

Sarah Stirk/Leanne Jarvis  
T: (0116) 257 7752/7264  
E: BALDisability@dmu.ac.uk

#### **Health & Life Sciences**

Elliot Juby  
T: (0116) 257 7884  
E: hlsdisabilitysupport@dmu.ac.uk

#### **Art, Design and Humanities**

Donna Neal/Hayley Coles  
T: (0116) 257 7003  
E: adhdisability@dmu.ac.uk

#### **Technology**

Leanne Herbert/Leanne Jarvis  
T: (0116) 250 6114  
E: FOTDisability@dmu.ac.uk