



Disabled Students' Allowances

Evidence of Specific Learning Differences,
including dyslexia

dmu.ac.uk/students



This information is for those applying to, or studying at De Montfort University (DMU) who have a Specific Learning Difference (SpLD), including dyslexia, and want to:

- **apply for support from the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)**
- **know what evidence of their SpLD is needed to apply for DSAs**

DSAs are from student funding providers, for example Student Finance England, and not from universities.

Some university courses are not eligible for DSAs.

Some students are not eligible. To be eligible, you need to be classed as a UK student for student funding (maintenance and tuition fee loan).

There is more information here: **[gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas)**

What evidence of my SpLD does my funding provider need for DSAs?

You must be able to show that you have an SpLD and that affects your studies. This evidence should be in your recent assessment report.

What type of reports are accepted?

It needs to be the report of a full, diagnostic assessment, which

confirms that you have an SpLD, and gives details of what this means for you.

Screening reports and Form 8 documents are not accepted as they are not diagnostic reports.

There are guidelines about assessment reports for Disabled Students' Allowances applications. They are called 'SpLD Working Group 2005/DfES Guidelines for Assessment of SpLDs in Higher Education'. They are available online.

If you already have a report and are unsure whether it meets these guidelines, contact the person who assessed you to check with them.

What if my report is more than two years old?

If your report is more than two years old but meets the government guidelines and confirms that you have an SpLD, your funding provider should accept it for a DSAs application.

Can I apply for DSAs before I start my course?

Yes, and we advise you to do this if you can. The application can take 12 weeks at busy times of the year.

What if my report is not accepted by my funding provider?

You will need to have a new assessment that does meet the guidelines.

If you are arranging your assessment independently because you want to apply for DSAs, ask your assessor whether their report will meet the guidelines.

The 'useful contacts and resources' at the end of this handout includes details for organisations that can help you find a suitably qualified person who assesses adults for SpLDs.

What if I do not have a copy of my report?

If you were assessed at school or college but don't have a copy of the report, ask for a copy. As the report contains your information, you have a right to it as the 'data subject' if the school or college still has it.

I need to have a new assessment, will my funding provider pay for it?

No, your funding provider will not pay this cost.

If I need to have a new assessment, can DMU help me pay for it?

We **may** be able to pay the cost. If we can, the assessment will be with one of our contracted Assessors. This will depend on several things, including whether we have the budget to do this. This is the case for DMU applicants and current DMU students.

DMU applicants should contact Disability Advice and Support to find out whether we can offer this to you.

Current DMU students should book an appointment with a Disability Officer through the My Gateway booking system to discuss this.

USEFUL CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

DMU Student Gateway

De Montfort University
Gateway House
The Gateway
Leicester
LE1 9BH

Faculty of Business and Law

E: balengagement@dmu.ac.uk

Computing, Engineering and Media

E: cemengagement@dmu.ac.uk

Faculty of Health and Life
Sciences

E: hlsengagement@dmu.ac.uk

Disability Advice and Support

Student Gateway
E: medcon@disability.ac.uk
E: disability@dmu.ac.uk
W: dmu.ac.uk/disability

My Gateway appointment system

mygateway.dmu.ac.uk

Wellbeing Team

Student Gateway
E: wellbeing@dmu.ac.uk
W: dmu.ac.uk/wellbeing
W: dmu.ac.uk/mentalhealth

Healthy DMU Hub

W: dmu.ac.uk/healthy

You can also access the Hub
through a tile in your 'My DMU'
account.

Faculty Engagement Officers contact details

Faculty of Arts, Design and
Humanities
E: adengagement@dmu.ac.uk