



Disabled Students' Allowances

**Proof of Specific Learning
Difference (including dyslexia)**

Disability Advice and Support

dmu.ac.uk/students

Who is this booklet for?

This information is for anyone applying to university who:

- Has a Specific Learning Difference (including dyslexia)
- Wants to apply for support from the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)
- Wants to know what proof of their Specific Learning Difference is required from their Funding Provider when applying for DSAs.

What proof of my Specific Learning Difference does my Funding Provider need?

You must be able to prove that you have a Specific Learning Difference and that it will affect your studies at university. This proof should be contained in the most recent copy of your assessment report.

What sort of report will be accepted?

The Government has produced guidelines regarding assessment reports accepted for Disabled Students' Allowances applications. The guidelines are called 'SpLD Working Group 2005/DfES Guidelines for Assessment of SpLDs in Higher Education.

If you already have a report and are unsure whether your report meets these criteria, you should contact the person who assessed you and 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 criteria, your Funding Provider should accept it for a Disabled Students' Allowances application.

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

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

What if my report is not acceptable to my Funding Provider?

You will need to have a new assessment, which meets the Government criteria.

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

'Useful contacts and resources' at the end of this booklet includes organisations which can help you find a suitably qualified person in your area who assesses adults with Specific Learning Differences.

What if I haven't got a copy of my report?

If you were assessed at school or college, but don't have a copy of the report, you should request a copy.

If I need to have a new assessment, will my Funding Provider pay for it?

No, they will not pay to prove the existence of a Specific Learning Difference.

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

We may be able to help pay the cost of an assessment once you have enrolled on a course at De Montfort University.

If you are unable to have an updated assessment come to see Disability Advice and Support once you have enrolled at the university to find out whether we can help you pay for a new assessment.

This is also an opportunity for you to discuss dyslexia support at the university and find out what you need to do to access it.

Useful contacts and resources

Disability Advice and Support

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

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

T: (0116) 257 7595

E: disability@dmu.ac.uk.

W: dmu.ac.uk/disability

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 7003/7621
E: adhdisability@dmu.ac.uk

Technology

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

Guidelines for Assessment of SpLDs in Higher Education

You can access the 'SpLD Working Group 2005/DfES Guidelines for Assessment of SpLDs in Higher Education' on the following page of the Patoss (Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties) website: patoss-dyslexia.org/DSA2.html

The report is displayed as 'Final Report: SpLD Working Group 2005/DfES Guidelines.'

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA)

Unit 8 Bracknell Beeches
Old Bracknell Lane
Bracknell
RG12 7BW
T: 0845 2519002 (Helpline)

Dyslexia Action

Head Office and National Training and Resource Centre
Park House
Wick Road
Egham
Surrey TW20 0HH
T: (01784) 222300
F: (01784) 222333
E: info@dyslexiaaction.org.uk
W: dyslexiaaction.org.uk

Dyspraxia Foundation

Registered office:
8 West Alley
Hitchin
Hertfordshire SG5 1EG
T: (01462) 454986 (Helpline – open from 10am–1pm Monday
to Friday)
F: (01462) 455052
E: dyspraxia@dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk
W: dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk