

Student Loans Company

Disabled Students' Allowance



Session Overview

1. What is Disabled Students' Allowance?
2. Definition of a Disability
3. Eligibility Criteria
4. Assessment Centres
5. Entitlement Letter (DSA2)
6. Service Level Agreements



What is Disabled Students' Allowance?

- Grant based government funding
- Reasonable adjustments
- Non-repayable
- Level-playing field



Definition of a Disability

- Based on the Equality Act 2010 definition
 - Clear Diagnosis
 - Longstanding
 - Substantial and long-term
- Exceptions – HIV, Cancer, MS, Blind/Visually Impaired
- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs)



Eligibility Criteria

- Standard Eligibility Criteria applies as per CORE funding
- Minimum Intensity of Study
- DSA Application Form
 - Slim-line (DSASL)
 - Full-form (DSA1F)
- Medical Evidence
- DSA1Needs Letter



Assessment Centres

- Centres based all over the UK
- Review students' study related needs and make recommendations to SLC through a Needs Assessment Report:
 - Specialist Equipment
 - Ergonomic Equipment
 - Assistive Software
 - Non-medical Helper Support
 - General Allowance
 - Accommodation
 - Travel



Entitlement Letter (DSA2 Letter)

- Confirms support that Student Loans Company have agreed to fund.
- Send directly to student. University receives a copy if Consent has been provided.
- University can support in arranging agreed support types if students are experiencing difficulties.



Service Level Agreements

Processing timescales

- Medical Evidence/DSA application form – 10 working days, pends may increase waiting times
- Assessment Centres – 10 working days from date in which student confirms they are happy with the report
- Student Loans Company – 10 working days, pends may increase waiting times
- Full process will take roughly 6-8 weeks if everything is completely correctly, so strongly encouraged to apply early!

