

# How do I apply for DSA?

Applying for DSA can be a lengthy process, so you should try and set things in motion as soon as possible. Contact the Disability Service, and they will advise you on your eligibility and help you apply for funding.

All first time applicants for DSA will have to undergo a needs assessment to determine what additional expenses arise because of disability, impairment or specific learning difficulty.

We have produced a DSA FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) which goes into the content of this quick guide in a lot more detail.

You can obtain the FAQ by:

- Visiting this link [tinyurl.com/yak25on9](https://tinyurl.com/yak25on9)
- Emailing the Disability Service - [disability@hw.ac.uk](mailto:disability@hw.ac.uk) and requesting a copy is emailed to you.
- Scanning this QR code.



Produced by Heriot-Watt University Disability Service



This QR Code takes you to the Disability Service Website

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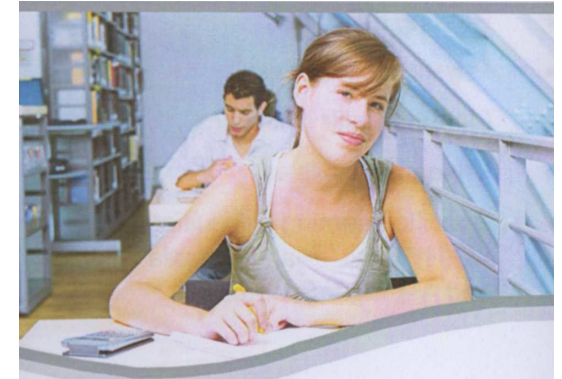
Disability Service  
Student Wellbeing Centre  
Hugh Nisbet Building  
Heriot Watt University  
Riccarton Campus  
Edinburgh EH14 4AS

Phone: 0131 451 3386  
E-mail: [disability@hw.ac.uk](mailto:disability@hw.ac.uk)



## Disabled Students Allowance Funding (DSA)

### Quick Guide



## What is DSA?

DSA is additional funding which may be available to meet any additional study related costs that a student may incur, as a result of their disability. Students with a range of disabilities can apply, including those with:

- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. AD(H)D, dyslexia or dyspraxia.)
- ASC (Autistic Spectrum Condition) or Asperger Syndrome
- Physical or Mobility impairment
- Mental Health
- Unseen disabilities or medical conditions (such as epilepsy, diabetes or allergies)

DSA funding can only be used to cover the cost of things that the student needs directly related to their disability and how it affects their academic studies. It cannot be used to pay for things that all students need, like rent or tuition fees.

## Am I entitled to DSA?

If you meet the UK residence criteria, are studying at degree level and have a disability, illness or specific learning difficulty then there is a good chance that you could be eligible.

Generally, you have to be:

- A full time undergraduate student, studying for HNC, HND, a degree or equivalent.
- A full time postgraduate student, studying for a full time post-graduate course.
- A part time degree student, working to at least 50% of a full time Higher Education qualification.

There are some exceptions to the above. Please call in and see a Disability Advisor at Heriot-Watt, or contact your Funding Authority for further advice on your individual circumstances.

SAAS— [tinyurl.com/ny9obzs](https://tinyurl.com/ny9obzs)

SFE— [tinyurl.com/ch563g2](https://tinyurl.com/ch563g2)

SFNI— <https://tinyurl.com/3w5cauxz>

Eire— [tinyurl.com/y4shn7nb](https://tinyurl.com/y4shn7nb)

## What can DSA cover?

DSA funding is divided into three parts:

• **Basic Allowance** - general costs related to your course and incurred as a result of your disability e.g. printing, Braille paper, etc. This allowance can be claimed annually.

• **Equipment Allowance** - used to buy any recommended equipment required to undertake your course, due to your disability. This can include computing equipment, assistive software and other technical aids.

• **Non Medical Personal Helpers Allowance** - pays for personal helpers e.g. note takers, mental health mentors, sign language interpreters and study skills support. It does not cover disability related expenditure that you would need even if you were not a student.

Please note that every DSA application and assessment is individual to the student, and recommendations are based on that individual student's needs, related to their disability and course.