

Funding Available for Disabled Students

Various funding is available to pay for disabled students' support needs at University. There are some allowances specifically available for this purpose, such as the Disabled Students Allowances. There are also some general funding sources that can be used for many purposes including disability-related costs. The major sources of funding are detailed below:

LEAs' Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs)

DSAs are available to all UK students who qualify for maintenance support from their Local Education Authority (LEA). Students may be full-time or part-time (at least 50%), undergraduate or postgraduate, and must show that they have a disability or medical condition which affects their ability to study. The DSAs can be used for extra costs incurred in attending the course, as a direct result of a disability. DSAs are not means tested. Students should contact their LEA if they wish to apply for a DSA, and to check that their course would qualify.

Rate of allowances for 2003/2004:

- a) Specialist Equipment Allowance: up to £4,460 for the duration of the course
- b) Non-Medical Helpers Allowance: up to £11,280 per year (pro-rata for part-time students)
- c) General Allowance: up to £1,490 per year (pro-rata for part-time students)

Further information available from:

- "Bridging the Gap" booklet produced by the DfEE
tel. 0800 731 9133 (voice) 0800 328 8988 (text) website:
http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentsupport/students/stu_students_with_d.shtml
- "Guide to obtaining a Disabled Students Allowance" Access Unit Factsheet F8

Other Funding Bodies' DSAs

Many other bodies funding HE courses (e.g. NHS, ESF, research councils) now have funding equivalent to the DSAs available. You should contact your funding body for more information.

Funding Provided by the University

The Student Finance Office administers grants, loans and bursaries and offers assistance to any student on general financial matters:

4th Floor Student Union, 0117 954 5886 (voice/text), www.bris.ac.uk/depts/StdFin

Hardship Funds

Hardship funds from the Government are available from the University to students who face financial difficulties with their living costs for whatever reason. These funds may be made available for dyslexia assessments, or assistance not covered by the LEA. Students should contact the Student Finance Office to find out if they are eligible or to make an application.

Bursaries

Opportunity Bursaries are available from the University and are intended to widen the participation of students who are at a disadvantage prior to entering University. Students should contact the Student Finance Office to find out if they are eligible or to make an application.

The Access Unit for Deaf and Disabled Students

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