

## **Support for Disabled Students**

The college has specialist teams which provide support for disabled students including in class support (such as for students with medical conditions, Asperger's Syndrome and autism), dyslexia and specific learning differences, physical disabilities, hearing impairment, visual impairment, mental health and personal care support.

General information about support for students with disabilities is available at:

<http://www.liv-coll.ac.uk/SupportForYourStudies/LearnerSupport/StudySupport/>

In addition, there are specific services available for students on higher education programmes, including:

- Confidential advice, guidance and support to applicants and students with disabilities
- Guidance on applying for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)
- Advice on gaining any medical evidence required or an Educational Psychologist Report if you have dyslexia
- Support in arranging a Needs Assessment
- Guidance from our dedicated Finance and Welfare Team
- Individual academic and learning support tailored to your higher education programme
- Training in assistive software
- Advice and guidance to course tutors regarding your needs, and to promote inclusion and equality

The college welcomes applicants with disabilities: we are proactive in anticipating needs and in making reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled students are welcomed and treated fairly. The college works in partnership with Action for Blind People and was the first post-16 provider in the UK to gain the Dyslexia Friendly Kitemark from the British Dyslexia Association for its Arts Centre in 2006, with several other centres since gaining accreditation.



### **Disabled Student Allowance (DSA)**

The Disabled Student Allowances (DSA) can provide extra financial help if you want to study a higher education course and have a disability or specific learning difference like dyslexia. It is the college's policy to provide in-house support for students in receipt of the DSA wherever possible.

Guidance on the DSA process and the forms you would need to apply via Student Finance England are available at:

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG\\_10034898](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898)

### **Key facts about DSA:**

- Available whether studying full-time or part-time (a part-time course must be at least 50% of the full-time equivalent)
- It is not repayable as it is a grant, not a loan
- It is not dependent on income: students get it because of need, not income
- It does not affect benefit entitlement such as Disability Living Allowance

### **Who can get the DSA?**

- Students may be eligible for DSA if they have any of the following:
- Mental Health Difficulty such as Anxiety or Depression
- Specific Learning Differences such as Dyslexia, autism or ADHD/ADD
- Medical conditions such as Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer or HIV
- Sensory impairments which could affect the ability to see or hear
- Other physical or medical conditions

### **What can DSA help with?**

- The cost of support (e.g. a note-taker in lectures or a dyslexia support tutor)
- Specialist equipment (e.g. a laptop computer, screen reader or specialist software)
- Additional travel costs

### **How to apply for the DSA**

- Students should apply as soon as they can as the process can be lengthy
- If applying for the core support (Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan etc), tick the DSA box when applying. It is easier and quicker if written evidence is submitted with the application
- If applying for DSA support alone, students can now complete a DSA1 application form without needing to submit the main application form as well. This form will need to be completed each year, if only applying for DSA support
- Once eligibility is confirmed, students will be asked to attend a Needs Assessment (the cost of this is met automatically by DSA) at a Needs Assessment Centre
- Once Student Finance England has received a Needs Assessment Report, students will be informed of the level of help available from DSA and how to arrange this

### **What evidence is required?**

- For physical conditions a report or letter from a student's GP or Consultant
- For Specific Learning Differences like dyslexia a post 16 report from an Educational Psychologist or a teacher who has 'Approved Teacher Status' awarded by the British Dyslexia Association or PATOSS (the Professional Association of Teachers of Students with Specific Learning Difficulties)

- For Mental Health Difficulties a letter from the student's GP indicating potential impact on a student's study

## Contact us

For further information, assistance, or a confidential discussion contact Liz Jackson (Inclusive Learning Manager) who will put you in touch with the appropriate team:

Liz Jackson, Inclusive Learning Manager, Liverpool Community College, Arts Centre, Mulberry Street, Liverpool, L7 7EE

0151-252-4085

[liz.jackson@liv-coll.ac.uk](mailto:liz.jackson@liv-coll.ac.uk)

## Additional useful links

**Liverpool Community College** – college Disability Equality Scheme and Action Plan

<http://www.liv-coll.ac.uk/AboutTheCollege/EqualityAndDiversity/>

**Skill** (National Bureau for Students with Disabilities) - a national charity promoting opportunities for disabled young people and adults in post-16 education, training and employment

<http://www.skill.org.uk/>

### **Student Finance England**

Telephone: 0845-300-5090

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Address: Student Finance England, PO Box 210, Darlington, DL1 9HJ

Email: [dsa\\_team@slc.co.uk](mailto:dsa_team@slc.co.uk)

[www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance)

**National Network of Assessment Centres** - students applying for the Disabled Student Allowance are referred to an Assessment Centre for a Needs Assessment

<http://www.nnac.org/>