SAAS Funding – Disabled Students’ Allowance

The Student Awards Agency Scotland is here to help you to find the right information, support and funding.

√ Informing Choices
√ Funding Futures
√ Supporting Success
If you have a disability or additional learning need(s), you may be eligible to apply for Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA).

This is a fund to support students who are studying a course of higher education and may incur extra costs due to their impairment.

Eligibility
To be eligible for DSA, you must meet our residence criteria and be studying an eligible higher education course. Visit www.saas.gov.uk for more information and to view our full eligibility criteria.

The Basic Allowance
The basic allowance can be claimed on an annual basis for the duration of your studies. The allowance can include items such as:
- photocopying
- additional printing costs
- Braille or Livescribe paper

The Large Items Allowance
The large item allowance can include the purchase or hire of items such as:
- disability-related software, such as voice recognition software
- printers/scanners
- laptops/Personal Computers (PCs)
- ergonomic equipment, such as desks or chairs

What’s Available?
The funding you are eligible to receive is based on your individual needs and the course you are studying. There are three different elements of funding students can apply for. Some of these allowances will be paid on a pro-rata basis for part-time students.
How to apply

It is very important to speak with Disability Services at your college or university to discuss what support you will need if you wish to apply for DSA.

They will help you with the application process, to complete and endorse the necessary forms. You can find the forms on our website by searching for DSA.

In the first year you apply for DSA, you’ll be asked to provide supporting evidence to confirm your disability or learning difficulty and undertake a needs assessment.

How will DSA be paid?

DSA for purchasing equipment or consumables will normally be paid directly into your bank account.

NMPH will be paid directly to you on receipt of a claim or to your provider on receipt of an invoice.

When your application has been processed we’ll send you an email to inform you of this and confirm the next steps.

The Non-Medical Personal Help Allowance (NMPH)

NMPH can be claimed on an annual basis for the duration of your studies. The allowance can include:

- British Sign Language interpreters (BSL)
- notetakers/scribes
- proofreaders
- study skills support

More information about NMPH allowance is available in the ‘Guide to non-medical personal help allowance’ – Visit www.saas.gov.uk and search for NMPH.

Products are available in community languages and alternative formats on request.
Visit your SAAS Account regularly and check your emails for any correspondence.