



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 needs, you may be eligible to apply for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

DSA is a fund to support disabled students and those with additional learning needs. You need to be studying a higher education course and have extra costs because of your disability.

Eligibility

You must meet our residence criteria and be studying a higher education course.

Visit www.saas.gov.uk for more information and to view our full eligibility criteria.



What's Available?

The funding you can receive is based on your individual needs and the course you are studying. There are 3 different elements of funding students can apply for.

1. Consumable Items

This allowance can be claimed every year for the duration of your studies. It includes items such as:

- photocopying
- additional printing costs
- Braille or Livescribe paper

2. Equipment, software, and accessories

This 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

Note: Students should provide SAAS with receipts for the goods purchased.





3. The Non-Medical Personal Help Allowance (NMPH)

You can claim NMPH each year of your course 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](#)'.

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.

Your Disability Advisor will help you with the application process, and complete and endorse the application form. You can find the forms in the [DSA guide](#) on our website.

In the first year you apply for DSA, you will be asked to provide supporting evidence to confirm your disability or learning difficulty and undertake a needs assessment. Your Disability Advisor will help you with this.

How will DSA be paid?

DSA for purchasing consumable items or equipment will be paid directly into your bank account.

NMPH will be paid to you directly when we receive a claim or to your provider when we receive an invoice.

When your application has been processed, we will email you about this and confirm the next steps.



Products are available in community languages and alternative formats on request.

Helpful resources for students

The Student Information Scotland **Health and Wellbeing** page provides a range of resources from trusted local and national sources.



Gender Based Violence (GBV support)

Universities and colleges should be places where students can live, study and research, free of sexual harassment and gender based violence.

<https://endgbv.uk/>

EmilyTest

Tackling Gender Based Violence in Education

Working to improve gender based violence prevention, intervention and support in FE and HE education.

www.emilytest.org

SAMARITANS Samaritans

You can get in touch about anything that's troubling you, no matter how large or small the issue feels. Talk things over in complete confidence with an experienced listener or send an email.

www.samaritans.org

Phone: 116 123 or email jo@samaritans.org



Scottish Association for Mental Health (SAMH)

Works to support people who experience mental health problems, homelessness, addictions and other forms of social exclusion.

www.samh.org.uk Phone: 0141 530 1000



Works to provide a wide range of mental health services for adults and young people.

www.penumbra.org.uk



living life to the full

Based in Scotland, Living life to the full is an award-winning website providing easy access to cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) based resources for low mood and stress.

www.lltff.com



Breathing Space

A confidential helpline for people to call when they are feeling low, stressed or anxious.

www.breathingspace.scot

Phone 0800 83 85 87



Student Awards Agency Scotland
www.saas.gov.uk

Visit your SAAS Account regularly and check
your emails for any correspondence.



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