

This information is about the support that young people with special educational needs (SEN) can get when they go into higher education, for example university.

An EHC Plan does not support young people who decide to attend higher education courses, such as university degrees, but support is still available. Universities have a duty make reasonable adjustments for students with SEND under the Equality Act 2010.

Section 20 of the [Equality Act 2010](#) says that higher education providers should take reasonable steps to:

- Avoid putting a student with a disability at a substantial disadvantage compared to others without a disability
- Ensure people with disabilities are not disadvantaged by a physical feature. A reasonable adjustment could involve removing or altering a physical feature
- Provide auxiliary aids to avoid putting a person with a disability at a disadvantage

Support from the university

Most universities have a disability support team, who provide support to disabled learners. Support can include flexible seminar times, support for study skills, extra time in exams, or access to specialist computer equipment. It's worth getting in touch with the university's disability team to find out more about what they offer.

Students with higher needs may qualify for a Disabled Students' Allowance to fund specific help such as note takers, sign language interpreters or specialist IT equipment.

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) helps towards meeting the additional studying costs or expenses that students face as a direct result of a disability or specific learning difficulty.

Full-time, part-time and postgraduate students all qualify for help. DSA is paid on top of the standard student finance package and is not means tested. There is no age limit for DSA.

Students can be eligible for Disabled Students' Allowance if they have:

- a mental health condition, such as anxiety or depression
- a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- a developmental disorder, such as autism, ADHD/AD
- a progressive medical condition such as Multiple Sclerosis, Cancer or HIV
- a sensory impairment which could affect the ability to see or hear

DSA can fund non-medical helper support, such as study skills tutors for students with specific learning difficulties and mentors for students with mental health conditions or on the autistic spectrum. It can also help fund equipment, such as computers and assistive technology, with the student paying the first £200 towards the cost of a computer.

All students who apply for DSA have a study needs assessment to decide what support is best for them. There are assessment centres based at universities across the country.