

Getting to know DASS week: FAQs

What is DASS?

The Disability Advisory & Support Service (DASS) are responsible for making recommendations for disability related support and adjustments for students at the University of Manchester.

Who can DASS support?

DASS offer support for students with: a specific learning difficulty; a mental health condition; a physical disability; a sensory disability or another long-term health condition.

Can I apply to DASS before I confirm my course/offer of a place?

Yes, you can apply before receiving an offer or confirming your place at the university.

Is there a deadline for DASS?

There is no deadline for registering with DASS, you can register with DASS before coming to university or at any point throughout your studies. However we do recommend registering as soon as possible to ensure support can be put into place before starting university.

How do I register with DASS?

Registration with DASS requires a registration form and suitable medical evidence of: a diagnosis, longevity of the condition (12 months +) and day to day impact. For Specific Learning Difficulties support a diagnostic report by an educational psychologist is required.

What counts as evidence of my disability?

You can find out what medical evidence is needed [here](#).

I've had a previous assessment a number of years ago – will this still be accepted as evidence?

This is judged on a case-by-case basis, although an assessment may have been carried out a number of years ago this doesn't mean it won't be accepted as evidence. This can be

discussed directly through a quick query appointment. You can find out more about this [here](#).

I didn't disclose a disability on my UCAS form, can I still get disability support?

Yes, you can apply to DASS at any time, however we recommend registering with DASS as soon as possible to ensure support can be put into place before starting university.

What happens during a university support plan assessment?

During a support plan assessment you will have a discussion with a disability support adviser about your needs and the kind of support you would like. The different kinds of support available include: exams support, support from teaching staff, library support, and adjustments in accommodation. You can find out more detail about the kinds of support available [here](#).

What kinds of support can I get as a disabled student?

You can access various kinds of support including University Support through registration with DASS; Disabled Students' Allowance from the Funding Body (SFE, NHS etc.); as well as Personal Care Support from Social Services (e.g. help with cooking, shopping, washing etc.).

Do I have to renew my disability support each year?

No, you do not need to renew disability support each year at university. If you want to make changes to your support you can book a support review appointment. You can find out more about this [here](#).

How do the accommodation office and DASS communicate with one another for my support?

DASS liaise with relevant staff about recommendations for support on behalf of the student, where consent has been given to do this.

What kind of support can you offer students with Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC)?

You can find out about what we are doing for our students with Autism Spectrum Conditions [here](#).

What kind of support is available for disabled students on placements?

Various kinds of support are available to disabled students whilst they are carrying out placements. This includes academic support from teachers and staff, such as the student's Academic Adviser and members of the Student Pastoral Support team. Moreover, students will receive support from Peer Mentors, who are students in their final years of study that can guide and support other students through the course. If a student requires adjustments during their placement then they should contact DASS to review their support, as well as the placement supervisor for their course. If specific equipment is provided for students studying that course, then the university will also provide disabled students with adapted equipment too.

Can DASS liaise with parents/guardians rather than students directly if required?

Yes, but only with the explicit consent of the student. A student must consent to their information being shared with a parent/guardian before discussing support.

What kind of support can DASS offer for students who take a year abroad?

This depends on which country you chose to study in. For most European countries, similar support to that offered by DASS is available. For other countries where disability legislation differs to the UK, such as China or America, disability support may differ to that offered by DASS. It is worthwhile contacting DASS and the Go Abroad team to discuss your needs and support.

What are DSAs?

Disabled Students' Allowance is provided by the funding body and can include assistive software, equipment and one to one non-medical helper support.

How do I know if I am eligible for DSAs?

You can apply for DSAs if you have: a specific learning difficulty; a mental health condition; a physical disability; a sensory disability or another long-term health condition, for example cancer, chronic heart disease or HIV. You must also be an undergraduate or postgraduate student; qualify for student finance from Student Finance England and be studying on a course that lasts at least a year.

How long does it take to access DSAs?

The process may vary slightly according to the Funding Body – it can take several weeks to get support in place (up to 14 weeks). DASS can assist students with the DSA process if support is needed.

Are DSAs repayable?

No, DSA is not a loan and they aren't means-tested. Anything you receive as part of your DSA, whether equipment or non-medical support, does not need to be paid back.

What kinds of support can DSAs cover?

DSA can offer various kinds of support. This includes: specialist equipment, for example a computer if you need one because of your disability; non-medical helpers, for example a British Sign Language (BSL) interpreter or specialist note taker; extra travel to attend your course or placement because of your disability; and other disability-related study support, for example having to print additional copies of documents for proof-reading. DSA does not cover disability-related costs you'd have if you were not attending a course, or costs that any student might have.

How do I receive DSA?

Money is paid either into your bank account or directly to the organisation providing the service or equipment. You'll find out how your support will be paid to you after your needs assessment.

What happens at a study needs assessment for DSA?

This short clip will provide [a guide to the Study Needs Assessment for DSAs](#).

Helpful links:

[Disabled student outreach](#)

[Disability Advisory and Support Service](#)

[Assistive software](#)

[Equipment](#)

[Support from teaching staff](#)

[Study spaces](#)

[Go Abroad](#)

[Virtual Manchester](#)

[Unibuddy](#)

[Manchester Live webinars](#)

[Manchester Connect](#)

[Disabled Students' Allowance](#)

[Student Support information for parents/guardians](#)

Helpful email addresses:

For DASS related queries: dass@manchester.ac.uk

For DSA related queries: assessment@manchester.ac.uk

For accommodation queries: accommodation@manchester.ac.uk

For study abroad queries: goabroad@manchester.ac.uk

For queries regarding Getting to know DASS week: tours@manchester.ac.uk