

Additional Learning Support
- Information for all HE students entering 2009/2010

If you have a learning difficulty or disability you may need additional learning support for your academic work while on your course at College. At Higher Education level this support is provided through the Disabled Students Allowance. This allowance which is **not means tested**, provides money for computer hardware and software and enables your College to put the necessary support in place for you.

If you have any difficulties or disabilities which may affect your studies, even if you do not think they are severe, you should apply for this allowance as soon as possible so that the support can be put in place by your College. If you have any of the following difficulties you are strongly advised to apply for the Disabled Students Allowance:-

- Visual impairment
- Hearing impairment
- A history of literacy difficulties
- Specific Learning Difficulties (including dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia)
- Aspergers Syndrome
- Autism
- Mental Health difficulties
- Physical disabilities

This list is not comprehensive and if you have any questions about eligibility for the DSA you should contact either your local authority or Student Finance Direct.

Application for the Disabled Students Allowance is simple but the process can take some time especially at busy times of the year. If you want to apply for the allowance you should:-

1. Get an up-to-date assessment of your difficulties by a qualified assessor (usually an educational psychologist) or a record of your disability from your medical consultant. It is likely that you will need to pay for this assessment.
2. Complete the DSA1 form available from www.direct.gov.uk. This form is available in a range of alternative formats.
3. Enclose your up to date assessment with the completed form and send it to the address on the DSA 1 form.

Once you have completed these steps you may be asked, by letter, to attend a 'Needs Assessment'. This assessment will identify exactly what additional funding and equipment will be best for you. A copy of the Needs Assessment must be held by the College in order for your support to be put in place so please make sure that the College receives one as soon as possible.

If you have any queries about this information or any difficulties you may have, please contact the Learning Support team at the College by telephone via reception or by email at: learningsupport@hca.ac.uk