Changes to the Disabled Students' Allowance 2015-16

What is DSA for?

DSAs help pay for extra disability-related costs associated with studying incurred by disabled students. They are not means tested, so anyone with a disability can apply, as long as they are classed as a Home student for fees purposes. As they are not loans, DSAs do not need to be paid back.

- More information here

Disabled Students Allowance information from gov.uk

What are the changes for 2015/16?

For students applying for DSAs for the first time on or after 1 September 2015, the following change will apply:

- Where a student is assessed as requiring a computer to undertake their studies because of their disability and a computer is recommended they will be expected to contribute the first £200 towards the cost of their computer.
- This includes students assessed as needing a higher specification or higher cost computer. DSAs will continue to fund any additional computer costs over and above £200 if required.

University of Nottingham's response

- There may be a limited amount of funding available from the University to those students who would experience financial hardship in paying for the first £200.
- More information is available from Academic and Disability Support here

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/supportforyourstudies/index.aspx

- For students unable to access DSA for computers a laptop loan service is here

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/it-services/services/loan-repair-service.aspx

What is not changing for 2015/16?

For all full-time, part-time, full-time distance learning and postgraduate students applying for DSA funding for the first time in 2015/16 on or after 1 September 2015.

DSAs will continue to fund:

- The full range of non-medical help support, including note takers, mentors and study skills tutors.
- Ergonomic furniture that is required for study at home.
- Disability-related costs of travel to and from university, (including to and from a placement or field trip).
- Assistive software where individual access to that software is essential
Peripheral computer equipment (e.g. printers and scanners), consumable items, (ink, cartridges and paper) and digital voice recorders for recording taught sessions and, in limited circumstances, books.

Additional charges for specialist accommodation on campus, (e.g. an en-suite room).

Existing DSA students will remain on the current system of support for 2015/16.

**University of Nottingham’s response**

The University Of Nottingham remains committed to providing full access to the support students need to reach their academic potential. The reduction and removal of barriers to education for disabled students and the development of a learning environment which is as inclusive as possible are fundamental goals to which the University is fully committed.

The University has already undertaken to improve access through the use of Moodle and access to the library, please see these Libraries, Research and Learning Resources pages for further information.

**What will happen in 2016/17?**

The government has already announced additional changes in DSA funding for the 2016/17 academic year. Consequently, the additional assistance provided by the University of Nottingham for 2015/16 is likely to change again for 2016/17. The University of Nottingham will provide information on how these changes will be addressed once we have confirmation of the changes. This will be added to our webpages as below.

**Where can I find out further information?**

For further advice and guidance about DSAs, including how and when to apply please contact the University’s Academic and Disability Support Services:

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/supportforyourstudies/index.aspx

+44 (0)115 951 3710 option 3

dyslexia-support@nottingham.ac.uk

disability-support@nottingham.ac.uk

For further information about other general IT services please contact the service desk and see here for further information.

http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/it-services/services/students.aspx

0115 9516677 option 2