How to arrange a formal assessment for Specific Learning Differences

Step 1 – Are you eligible for funding towards the assessment fees?

Assessment costs vary widely but would typically be between £350 and £550 in the local area. There are two sources of means-tested funding from the University which may help with the costs of a full assessment:

- **Diagnostic Assessment Costs** – Home UG students only. Application form and eligibility criteria available from: [https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/support/financialsupport/support-funds/index.aspx#DAC](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/support/financialsupport/support-funds/index.aspx#DAC)

  Eligible students will receive £350 towards the cost of an assessment. Two local providers can accept direct payment of this funding, and students would then need to pay any difference between the funding and the full fee.

- **Student Hardship Fund** – Home students only. Application form is available from: [https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/support/financialsupport/factsheetsandforms.aspx](https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studentservices/support/financialsupport/factsheetsandforms.aspx).

  If you don’t qualify for Diagnostic Assessment Costs, you can ask Financial Support if you could apply for help from the Hardship Fund. You can include the cost of a diagnostic assessment in your outgoings.

Students who do not qualify for help from either of the above support funds will need to pay the full cost of an assessment themselves. International students should contact Disability Support Services for guidance on possible assistance with costs.

Step 2 – Arrange your assessment

For further information on the process of getting assessed for ADHD, you can view our video: [How to get assessed for ADHD](#). It’s very helpful for guidance and also explains the different routes available. If you want to explore a medical diagnosis and would like to seek a referral for an NHS assessment, you can register at Cripps Health Centre on campus and request an ADHD pre-screening with the mental health clinician there.

If you want to be assessed for ADHD as a specific learning difference (no medical diagnosis or access to medication, but would allow access to a Support Plan) we can provide details of local assessors.

For all other SpLDs, the following applies:

If you qualify for Diagnostic Assessment Costs funding we will send details of the assessors who can accept direct payment from the University.

If you don’t qualify for the funding (or if you are willing to pay upfront and reclaim funding after an assessment), the following two links will take you to online directories which will allow you to search for Educational Psychologists or specialist assessors who can provide dyslexia assessment services.


Make sure you select the following options:

- Select “Adult” in Who is this for?
- Type the specific learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia) into What is the issue? Then select the option for assessment

**PATOSS** – Specialist Tutor directory: [https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/Tutor-Index-Landing](https://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/Tutor-Index-Landing)
You will need to register (it's free). Make sure you select the following options:

- Select “HE” in Age Range
- Select “Full Diagnostic Assessments” in Service Provision
- Check the box which restricts the search to those with a current Assessment Practice Certificate

When you contact an assessment provider, you should always check that they can provide a report which would be acceptable for a DSA (Disabled Students’ Allowances) application.

**Step 3 – Provide us with your assessment report**

If your assessment confirms that you have specific learning differences, please upload your evidence via NottinghamHub along with a completed ‘your Essential Information Form’.

**Step 4 – Book an appointment**

You will need to meet with a Specialist Study Support Tutor in our team to:

- confirm your Support Plan
- discuss an application for Disabled Student Allowance
- receive ongoing Specialist Study Skills support

Your ongoing one-to-one session can cover:

- Essays – decoding the assignment, planning, structuring, editing skills
- Revision – planning, finding resources, memory aides, exam techniques
- Reading – techniques to make reading easier, reading for purpose
- Researching – demonstrating search engines, finding sources of information
- Referencing – general guidance
- Time management and organisational skills – breaking down tasks

Please email disability-supportservices@nottingham.ac.uk and include your student ID number and a contact telephone number and we will respond by email or phone.

MS Teams appointments will be offered to students in the first instance, face-to-face will be available on request.