

A Deaf students guide to applying for DSA for going to university.

What is DSA?

Disability Student Allowance (DSA) is a government funding scheme that covers some of the extra study-related costs incurred due to an 'impairment, mental health condition, or learning difference'. This is a non-repayable allowance which is in addition to other student finance. You may have to pay back other student finance. You don't have to have a confirmed university place to apply for DSA. In fact, it's best to apply as early as possible but you can apply at any point during your studies. Starting the process in January means things may be in place ready for starting your course. If there is a change of plan, it can be cancelled.

You can apply for DSA when you apply for student finance.

1. You first need to apply for student finance.

[Student finance: how to apply - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/student-finance-how-to-apply)
(www.gov.uk)

2. You have to

- Live in the UK
- Qualify for student finance.
- Taking a full/part time undergraduate/postgraduate course.
- Have a disability, mental health condition or specific difficulty.

3. Fill in DSA application

Do this as soon as possible because it can take up to 3 months

[Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: How to apply - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-if-youre-a-student-with-a-learning-difficulty-health-problem-or-disability) (www.gov.uk)

4. You will need to

- Provide evidence of your disability eg reports, letters, audiologist report.
- Report of what equipment you have had at school/college.

5. Once you have the go ahead from Student finance.

Book and attend a study needs assessment

6. Once funding has been approved

You can order equipment. When buying equipment e.g. laptop or computer, you will need to pay the first £200 as all students will need a laptop.

7. DSA will be paid as agreed.

The funds may be paid into the students bank account for them to purchase equipment or to the organisation who are providing equipment or service. Proof of purchase will be required.

8. A change in diagnosis or additional needs.

You need to make DSA aware e.g. hearing loss gets worse or of any other changes.

Things you might want to consider for university.

When you have your study needs assessment your assessor will talk through all your needs. These are just some examples of what is available

Smoke alarm / carbon monoxide detector/ door bell

These can be wired in or portable, They can be extra loud and with flashing lights.



Household equipment

Door bell

Alarm clocks/watches

You may need an alarm/watch to wake you up in the morning. Some need to be plugged in and some need a battery.



Alarm clocks - Extra loud, vibrating pad, flashing light or a combination



Vibrating alarm watch

Speech to text apps

This can help deaf students by providing a live transcript of what is being said.

Some example apps

Otter AI - <https://otter.ai/edu>

Live transcribe for android – <http://www.android.com/intl/enuk/accessibility/live-transcribe/>

Live transcribe for iso – <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/live-transcribe/id1471473738>

Interpreter for BSL

DSA can be used to fund a BSL interpreter for lectures.

Note taker

DSA can fund a person to take notes for you as lip reading and taking notes is difficult.

Equipment that could be used in lectures.



Table mics/ Roger Select

You can use more than one in lectures and put around them around the room.

You will need also need a Roger X and connector shoe for each hearing aid for it to work. You will need to talk to your audiology as they may have to activate more settings in your hearing aid.



Head phones

You may need to talk to your audiologist about headphones as they may need to activate more settings in your hearing aid for them to work.



Personal loop system



Digital recorder

Sky V70-P hearing aids for use with a Roger Pen



Lecturer's voice goes in to the microphone on the side of the Roger Pen



The Roger Pen sends the lecturer's voice directly to the hearing aid (s) via a connector shoe and Roger X Receiver.

The Roger Pen is worn by the lecturer. The lecturer's voice goes into the microphone on the side of the Roger Pen. The Roger Pen sends their voice directly to your hearing aid (s). This makes the lecturer's voice much clearer. The Roger Pen needs charging every night.

Transmitter:
Roger Pen (comes with a lanyard which is not shown on image above)

Receiver:
Sky V70-P hearing aid, connector shoe- AS18 Roger X Receiver

For the system to work, an additional setting (FM) will need to be added to the hearing aid(s) by an audiologist. The AS18 connector shoe comes with a different battery door for your hearing aid. This will need changing following the product instructions. The connector shoe will then slide on to the bottom of the new battery door. The pins of the Roger X Receiver can then be pushed into the corresponding holes in the connector shoe. Pair the Roger X and Pen. The whole system will now work. This means the lecturer's voice will be clearer. If you have 2 hearing aids, you will need 2 AS18 shoes and 2 Roger X Receivers.

Sky Marvel hearing aids for use with a Roger Pen



Lecturer's voice goes in the microphone on the side of Roger Pen



The Roger Pen sends the lecturer's voice directly to the hearing aid (s)

Transmitter:
Roger Pen (comes with a lanyard which is not shown on image above)

Receiver:
Sky Marvel hearing aid

The Roger Pen is worn by the lecturer. The lecturer's voice goes into the microphone on the side of the Roger Pen. The Roger Pen sends the lecturer's voice directly to the hearing aid (s). This makes the lecturer's voice much clearer. The Roger Pen needs charging every night.

Additional software will need to be bought and added to the hearing aid(s) by an Audiologist or educational team. Your assessor will advise you who can do this. Once the software has been added, the hearing aid (s) and the Roger Pen can be paired. This means the lecturer's voice will go into the Roger Pen and then directly into your hearing aid making their voice much clearer. This type of hearing aid can also have Bluetooth activated so it can be paired wirelessly to phones, computers, iPads and tablets.