

Disability and Dyslexia Support

The following information is for students with a disability, mental health condition and/or specific learning difficulty and gives some guidance on the support and funding available while studying at Middlesex University.

Do I have to disclose my disability?

Students are encouraged to disclose any disabilities or health conditions at the earliest opportunity so that due provision can be made. Issues of confidentiality are always respected.

How is disability defined?

Disability in this context can include a wide range of conditions. Typically this would be one or a combination of the following categories:

- a mental health condition, such as anxiety and depression
- a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia or dyspraxia
- a developmental disorder, such as autism, ADHD/ADD
- a progressive medical condition, such as Multiple Sclerosis, cancer or HIV
- a sensory impairment which could affect the ability to see or hear
- other conditions not mentioned above may also be considered

What financial help is available?

Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) helps to fund the extra costs that a disabled student may have to pay in order to fulfil course requirements. Students apply through their Funding body, typically this would be Student Finance England. If you are unsure ask the disability and dyslexia support team for advice: disability@mdx.ac.uk

What is the Disabled Students' Allowance?

The Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) is a government fund for Home (UK) students who have a specific learning difficulty, mental health condition, physical impairment or long-term health condition that affects their studies.

It is available to eligible students on a full-time or part-time (at least 25% of a full-time) higher education course. We can advise you whether you are eligible for this funding, which is not a loan and is not means-tested.

The DSA provides the necessary equipment, software and/or support workers to allow students to gain full access to their studies, but it is a limited amount and in certain cases it may not cover all the costs for students with complex support requirements. Disability Advisors can help you with the application process and advise you if you are unsure of the next step.

What do I do if I think I am dyslexic/dyspraxic but have not been tested?

If you think you may have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia and/or dyspraxia, our Disability Advisors are able to offer screenings, which will determine if you are advised to undergo a full diagnostic assessment. If this is the case, we are able to fund the majority of the cost for most students and will advise you how to go about booking this.

What about Examinations and Assessments?

Special assessment arrangements may be permitted on the recommendation of a Disability Advisor, following discussion with the student concerned and the submission of appropriate medical or supporting evidence. In the case of dyslexia or other specific learning difficulty, a report from an educational psychologist confirming the condition will be required. The special arrangements may include a separate room, additional facilities such as appropriate seating, scribes, and exam papers provided in alternative formats such as Braille or large type. In appropriate cases students may be provided with a computer for their exams. Additional time to complete examinations may also be permitted.

Is there anything else available?

Yes. Students can also apply for extra financial support via the Student Support Fund (SSF). You can apply for this via your UniHub account.

Can I get advice about welfare benefits and studying?

Yes. To find out more about welfare benefits and how becoming a student could impact on these see Welfare Advice Guide: **Benefits and Students** and/or Welfare Advice Guide:

Disability Benefits for Students at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

Any questions on any other issues?

If you are unsure about anything mentioned in this leaflet or need more information contact the Student Welfare Advice Team. We offer daily appointments. To see an adviser you can contact the Helpdesk, call 020 8411 3008 or email: **welfare@mdx.ac.uk**

Other Welfare Advice Guides can be found at:
<http://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides>
or email **welfare@mdx.ac.uk**

Contacts

Please contact Disability and Dyslexia Support to book an appointment with a Disability Advisor

Email: **disability@mdx.ac.uk**
Tel: 020 8411 2502

Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team has made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate. Middlesex University however, cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors. This publication can only be a guide and is not intended to replace the complex and diverse legislation covered. Statutes and regulations may change during the year.

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