Support for students with mental health conditions

This is a summary of the type of support potentially available to you at the University.

The support you receive will depend on the information you give us about your disability. Once your support has been agreed, we communicate this to relevant staff through a ‘Reasonable Adjustments Form’. We can update your Reasonable Adjustment Form as needed during your studies with us.

# Adjustments for lectures, seminars, labs and practicals

* Access to class material in advance of lectures/seminars
* Permission to record lectures whilst in attendance
* Lecturers and tutors to use clear, unambiguous language
* Verbal instructions to be written down e.g. on the board
* Teaching staff to be made aware you may occasionally miss class
* Being able to arrive late to class
* Being able to leave/re-enter class
* Given sufficient time to take notes (e.g. from the whiteboard)
* Additional time to respond to oral questions in lectures, seminars and tutorials
* Exemption from being asked to read material out loud in class
* Support worker in class e.g. study assistant
* Where group work is involved, for academic staff to try and ensure only one person speaks at a time
* Questions and comments made by other students to be repeated so you can follow what has been said
* Adjustments in presentations e.g. being able to present to a smaller group and/or one-to-one to tutor, assuming this meets the module’s learning outcomes
* Adjustments for group work e.g. facilitating group composition and clarifying roles
* Aademic staff to be provided with good practice guidelines for supporting students with mental health conditions

# Adjustments for assessments

* Extra time for exams/in-class tests
* Separate room with other students who have extra time or an individual room
* Rest breaks
* Use of a computer (potentially with specialist software, such as read-aloud software)
* Coursework deadline extensions (up to 5 working days)
* Announcements or instructions in tests/exams to be in clear and unambiguous language, and written down e.g. on the board

# Adjustments in the library

* Double photocopying/printing allowance
* Double laptop loan period (from 24 hours to 48 hours)
* Extended loans for books (one-week loans extended to two weeks)
* One to one induction to the library by a member of the library
* Book fetching service
* Access to staff lifts
* Books in alternative accessible format e.g. large print, braille, PDF
* Access to assistive technology, including Jaws, SensusAccess, Mindview, Microsoft Magnifier, Text Help, Windows Narrator, Zoomtext, Abbyy Fine Reader

You can view our library access guide by clicking the following link: <https://www.westminster.ac.uk/sites/default/public-files/general-documents/Access-Guide-for-disabled-students.pdf>

# How does our team help?

We give confidential advice and support to help you make the most of your studies.

We have a team of Disability Advisers who are available to help you, as well as Disability Tutors at each campus who can answer questions related to your course. Each library also has a Disability Support Representative. Our administration team can answer any general questions and queries.

We can also refer you to other services for support, such as our Wellbeing team or Counselling and Mental Health Service.

# Disabled Students Allowances

## What are DSA’s?

Disabled Students’ Allowance (DSA) is funding that helps to contribute to any additional costs you might incur during your course as a direct result of a disability.

The DSA is available in addition to your other student finance loans or grants and does not need to be repaid.

## What can DSAs help pay for?

There are many things that Disabled Students Allowances can contribute towards, depending on your individual needs.

This includes:

• Specialist equipment e.g. computer hardware and software

• One-to-one specialist support such as campus orientation training

• Extra travel costs incurred due to your disability

• Miscellaneous expenditure such as the cost of extra printing

• Other disability-related costs of studying

For more information on DSA, including eligibility criteria, please click the following link: <https://thedsahub.co.uk/>