



Welcome to your DSA assessment – General FAQs

First of all...

It's really important to remember that during the assessment you have nothing to prove, we know you are entitled to help, the 'assessment' is about working out which options are the best fit for you as an individual.

What will happen?

You and the assessor will sit and discuss the difficulties you are having as a result of your condition, and talk through what kind of support is available. If you feel more comfortable, a parent or friend can join you.

Remember, your assessor can only make recommendations and it is up to Student Finance to agree.

Any software or equipment will be demonstrated and if you feel it will help, your assessor will recommend training, so you know how to use it.

It can take up to 2 hours, though around an hour to an hour and a half is average. Your assessor will ask you if you need to take break, or need a glass of water, tea or coffee.

Does Student Finance England provide a laptop?

If you need a laptop or desktop PC because of the software your assessor recommends, you will have to contribute £200, but the laptop is insured for the duration of your course and it is yours to keep at the end of the course. You can also pay extra to upgrade it if you choose.

Can I get course software?

Unfortunately not. DSA only provides what is called, "assistive software", rather than the software used on your course. Assistive software may include software that reads back what is on the screen, mind mapping software, or voice recognition, for example. There are lots of different programs, and we will work with you to find the best options for you.

Can my assessor recommend reasonable adjustments for my institution to make?

No, and your assessor is also unable to make any recommendations related to exams or general study, for example extensions. This is because it is the institution's responsibility to provide *reasonable adjustments* and doesn't fall under DSA.

Does DSA provide any money?

No, DSA can be used to fund equipment, software, travel, non-medical help and can also help with things like additional printing costs, (through reimbursement) however, it doesn't provide any money and can't be used for things like travel home or to hospital appointments or food. If you're not sure, ask your assessor who will be happy to explain what can and can't be funded.