

Information for students with disabilities coming to Reading

Medical evidence/reports

Please provide us with documentation confirming your diagnosis – this is often a letter from a GP or other health professional who has been involved in the original diagnosis and/or ongoing support.

If you do not have medical evidence/no official diagnosis or are unsure whether documentation you have is suitable, please contact us on disability@reading.ac.uk, 0118 378 4202/66602

For information about specific medical evidence needed for Disabled Student Allowance applications please see <https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/eligibility>

Students with Specific Learning Difficulties

In order to provide support for your SpLD we need you to:

- have had a full diagnostic assessment
- send the full diagnostic report to us (email or hard copy)

A diagnostic assessment:

- takes approximately 3 hours
- comprises a series of tests carried out by an Educational Psychologist or a Specialist Teacher Assessor
- results in a report describing in detail the results of each test, confirms the diagnosis and makes recommendations for further support

If you have not had a full diagnostic assessment or unsure whether previous tests and reports that you've had meet the above criteria, please contact us on

spld-dyslexia@reading.ac.uk for further advice.

Students with Asperger's Syndrome

Please send us a copy of the report written by the Chartered Psychologist when you were first diagnosed with AS.

If you do not have a report, please contact us on disability@reading.ac.uk, 0118 378 4202/6602

Visit the campus and our service

You may have seen the campus on Visit and/or Open Days – you may find it useful to book an appointment with a Disability Adviser in advance of starting at University in order to:

- become familiar with our service
- discuss your support needs in greater detail
- discuss accessibility within Halls and campus buildings
- establish distances from accommodation, lecture theatres and other areas of the campus, to ensure these are manageable
- become familiar with the campus location in relation to Reading town centre.

Article **Information for students with disabilities coming to Reading**

Induction day

The Disability Advisory Service holds an induction day in July for all registered prospective students with disabilities to give you all the information about the support we offer and to help prepare you for the transition into university.

It also provides the opportunity to meet a Disability Adviser and talk about your support needs.

Please contact us for more details in relation to the next Induction Day:

disability@reading.ac.uk, 0118 378 6602/8921.

Prepare for the transition to university life

Many students find the transition into university challenging, particularly if it involves living away from home for the first time.

In the months before starting at university, doing or thinking about certain things which are new to you can help you to feel more prepared when you arrive, such as:

- preparing meals
- grocery shopping
- budgeting
- doing the laundry
- planning the routes you will need to take around the campus and the town by looking at maps of the local area
- preparatory reading of texts relevant to your course
- thinking about which [modules](#)
- you want to study in the coming academic term
- looking at the Societies and clubs offered by the Reading University Students' Union, thinking about which you might like to join
- thinking about how you'd like to introduce yourself to new people in your accommodation and on your course.

Apply for Disabled Students' Allowance

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are a form of government funded support. They are aimed at helping disabled people to study on an equal basis with other students.

If your application is successful, these are examples of the kind of support that may be recommended:

- equipment
- study related support/travel costs you have to pay as extra because of your disability

An overview on DSA and links to the application forms can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview>

Please note SFE does not fund personal care, support with daily living or residential support. If you require this type of support please contact your home social services department. This can take between 6-12 months to set up, we'd advise you to apply as early as possible.

Eligibility

You can apply for DSA if you are:

- you are ordinarily resident in the UK, that you have lived in the UK for at least three years before any period of study in higher education
- Studying a full-time course that lasts at least one year (including distance-learning)
- Studying a part-time course that lasts at least one year and doesn't take more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course (including a distance-learning course)

We recommend all eligible students apply as soon as possible – don't wait for your A-Level results. Applying ahead of the academic year beginning will mean that support can be put in place ready for when you start your course.

The Disability Advisory Service can assist with your application and coordinate the support once it is agreed. Please contact us on disability@reading.ac.uk, 0118 378 6602/8921 for further guidance.