

Support and adjustments for Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)

Support for students who have Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, Dyscalculia or other Specific Learning Difficulties. (A separate guide on ADHD is also available).

This document aims to inform you of the support and adjustments that the University can provide, as well as support that should be sourced from other organisations/agencies. To ensure success at university, it is important that you assess and plan for the support you will need, while also communicating your needs to us.

Automatic/standard adjustments

- Permission to record lectures for your own use subject to the University's [recording policy](#)
- Class handouts will be available at least 48 hours in advance (where possible) for you to download from [Blackboard](#) (the University's Virtual Learning Environment)
- Reading lists will be available before the module begins via the University's online reading list system [Talis Aspire](#)
- Access to 'Green Stickers' which allow special marking provisions, to ensure that you are not penalised for poor spelling, grammar or sentence structure

Adjustments which may be available on request

If further adjustments are needed, we recommend you meet with a Disability Adviser to determine what you could qualify for. Unless they conflict with course requirements, adjustments such as the following areas may be considered where appropriate:

- Exemption from being asked to read aloud if needed and requested
- Help, advice and liaison with compulsory work placement providers, host institution or work placement abroad regarding your disability-related needs

From the Disability Advisory Service (DAS)

- Exam provisions may be agreed by DAS and Examinations Office, where appropriate. These will vary but are likely to include extra time. Rest breaks or use of a PC may also be agreed where appropriate
- Additional time to respond to oral questions in workshops, foreign language examinations, tutorials and seminars, where possible
- Advice on applying for the Disabled Students Allowances

- Liaison with your department, with your consent, to help you articulate what you find helpful. When you meet with your Disability Adviser, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) can be completed
- Access to a temporary Sonocent licence to aid notetaking, where appropriate

Additional support you can apply for

Disabled Students Allowances from your funding body

To ensure access and success on your course, we recommend you apply for the [Disabled Students Allowances](#) (DSA). Applicants need to have been resident in the UK for 5 years before starting their studies. Successful applicants may be eligible for the following support:

- Study Skills sessions (often weekly). Personal, tailored support to help with time management, essay writing skills, and reading and exam preparation strategies
- Help towards the cost of a laptop computer
- Assistive technology (e.g. a digital voice recorder or specialist software for dictation and notetaking)

If you apply for DSA, your student finance authority will give you instructions on how to book a needs assessment, where an independent assessor will discuss your needs, determining your individual package of support. Most students with SpLDs who apply will receive valuable support.

DSA applications take a few months to process, so we recommend you apply around the Easter before you arrive. Check the [DSA](#) link for more details.

Non-UK students

If you are an EU or international student, we recommend you check with your sponsor or student finance authority in advance as they should be funding additional support needed.

Self-funded students who may need additional support should provide evidence and discuss any needs in advance with the [Disability Advisory Service](#). A Disability Adviser will assess your needs and discuss with you how these can be addressed. It is important to note that adjustments beyond the 'automatic/standard adjustments' listed above can take some time to put in place, so early conversation with the Disability Advisory Service is essential.

Support from other University services

As a student at The University of Reading, you will also have access to the following support services and facilities during your studies:

- [Study Advisers](#) to help you gain the academic success you deserve
- Your Academic Tutor, a subject expert, to provide personalised advice and guidance in relation to your academic development and progression

- [Welfare Team](#) to help you with any personal difficulties during your time at University
- [Support Centre](#) - the first port of call for any queries regarding your studies
- [Library Support](#) - both online, and via Academic Liaison Librarians
- [Students Union](#) provide a range of services including advice and student activities
- [Student Financial Support](#) for help with budgeting and unexpected financial hardship
- [Life Tools workshops](#) to ease your transition into university and enhance your university experience

Things to do now

1. Apply for [Disabled Students Allowances](#) (DSA) if you are a UK student. Speak to your sponsor or student finance authority to see what support is available if you are an international student.
2. When we write to you (usually the June before you arrive), please complete our online registration form and upload your SpLD diagnostic report. Please provide this in good time to ensure your adjustments are in place for the beginning of term and allow additional time if you need to get your assessment translated. Support is subject to a satisfactory diagnostic report.

Please note: Unexpected changes to services may be necessary due to the challenges of the Coronavirus and the need to reduce risks to students and staff. However, the Disability Advisory Service will always continue to deliver key services remotely where possible.