



DSA1 Notes

Notes for Disabled Students'
Allowances application form

2020/21

These notes will help you answer the questions on the application form and tell you what evidence you need to send and whether it needs to be photocopies or originals.

Where can I find more information about Disabled Students' Allowances?

Visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

How can I contact you?

Contact us on **0300 100 0607**

Alternative formats

You can order forms and guides in Braille, large print or audio by emailing with your name, address, customer reference number along with what form and format you require to:

- **brailleandlargefonts@slc.co.uk**

or you can telephone us on

- **0141 243 3686**

Please note, the above email address and telephone number can only deal with requests for alternative formats of forms and guides.

Notes **Personal details**

- a** If you have been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person, you can answer 'None' or 'Stateless' in the Nationality box.

Identity evidence details

- b2** If your passport expiry date has passed you will need to send your original UK birth or adoption certificate and a completed Birth/Adoption Certificate form. The name on your passport must match the name on this form.

Any original evidence you send with your application form will be returned to you as soon as possible.

Previous loans

- c** If you are behind with repayments on a previous loan, you should not apply for student finance until you have resolved this issue.

If you have any Mortgage Style (MS) Loans please call your debt owner on the telephone number shown on the most recent correspondence that you have received from them. If you don't know who your debt owner is please call **0300 100 0632** for advice.

If you have any Income Contingent Repayment (ICR) loans, please call **0300 100 0611** for advice.

Armed Forces

- d1** You may be eligible for support to study a distance learning course outside of
&2 England if you or your family member (who you live with) is currently serving outside England in one of the following:

- The Naval Service (Royal Navy and Royal Marines)
- The Army
- The Royal Air Force
- The Royal Military Police
- The Gurkhas

The following family members will be eligible students:

- A spouse or civil partner living with a member of the UK Armed Forces serving outside England
- A child, step-child or adoptive child living with a member of the UK Armed Forces serving outside England
- A dependant parent living with either;
 - A child who is a member of the UK Armed Forces serving outside England
 - The child's spouse or civil partner who is a member of the UK Armed Forces serving outside England

Section 1 Personal details

If you are in the Armed Forces

You need to send a letter confirming your name, your address (or BFPO address) and which country you were ordinarily resident in before you were based at your current location. It must also confirm the country you're currently based in.

If your family member is in the Armed Forces, you need to send a letter confirming the following:

- their name
- their address (or BFPO address)
- your name
- their relationship to you
- where they're currently based
- if you have been ordinarily resident in the UK, which country they were ordinarily resident in before they were based at their current location
- if you've never been ordinarily resident in the UK, which country they signed up for the Armed Forces in

The letter you send must be signed, stamped and dated by the Armed Forces Unit Records Office.

Contact details

- e** If you provide a term-time correspondence address all correspondence we issue will be sent to that address from the date you move there.

If you contact the DSA team by email, you should use the email address you've told us about here.

Evidence

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
b3	Identity	<p>Original non-UK passport.</p> <p>Original Biometric Residence Permit.</p> <p>Original UK birth or adoption certificate and a completed Birth/Adoption Certificate form.</p> <p>The Birth/Adoption Certificate form is available from www.gov.uk/studentfinance or by contacting us on 0300 100 0607</p> <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
	Name change Required if your name has changed from that which appears on your birth certificate or passport.	<p>A photocopy of:</p> <p>Change of name deed</p> <p>Marriage/divorce certificate</p> <p>Civil partnership/dissolution certificate</p>

Section 3 Residence

Notes

Nationality

a1 If you have provided your UK passport information or UK birth certificate as part of section 2, you do not need to send any further evidence of your UK nationality.

Armed Forces

If you, your parent(s) or partner are serving in the armed forces, you must apply for student finance in the UK country where you were ordinarily resident when you/they enlisted unless you permanently live in another area of the UK. We can accept certified photocopies of your residency evidence, stamped with your unit stamp. You should use your BFPO address for all correspondence.

a5 To get student finance as the child of a Swiss national, your Swiss national parent must be resident in the UK on the first day of your academic year.

Residence status

a6 If your child or step-child is the worker you must be dependent on them.

For children of EEA workers the term 'child' means a person 'under the age of 21; or dependants of the person or the person's spouse or civil partner'. This does not apply in cases where the EEA worker parent has died or left the UK and the child is staying on in the UK to finish their education.

a7 To get student finance as the dependent child of a Turkish Worker, your Turkish parent must be working in the UK on the first day of your course.

a8 'Settled status' means that you can live in the UK permanently without the Home Office placing any restrictions on how long you may remain.

You are free from any restriction if any of the following apply:

- You are a British citizen.
- You have a right of 'permanent residence' in the UK.
- You have been granted 'indefinite leave to remain'.
- You have a right of abode in the UK.

Further information about the right of permanent residence and other immigration issues can be obtained from the Home Office at **www.homeoffice.gov.uk**

If you have been granted DVILR in the UK, enter this at question a12.

a9 Refugee status

If you or your:

- husband, wife, civil partner; or
- parent(s), step-parent

have successfully applied for refugee status in the UK under the terms of the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, and you or they have been granted refugee status, the Home Office will have sent you or them a letter and an immigration status document confirming this.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a refugee, you will only be considered a 'child' if you were under the age of 18 at the time of your parent's application to the Home Office.

Section 3 Residence

If you are claiming student finance as the husband, wife or civil partner of a refugee, you must have been their husband, wife or civil partner at the time of their application for asylum.

Expiry date

If you or your:

- husband, wife, civil partner; or
- parent(s), step-parent

were granted refugee status without an expiry date you should mark the expiry date box as N/A (not applicable).

a10 Humanitarian Protection

If you or your:

- husband, wife, civil partner; or
- parent(s), step-parent

have been granted 'Humanitarian Protection' in the UK the Home Office will have sent you or them a letter and an immigration status document confirming this.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a person granted Humanitarian Protection, you will only be considered a 'child' if you were under the age of 18 at the time of your parent's application to the Home Office.

If you are claiming student finance as the husband, wife or civil partner of someone who has been granted Humanitarian Protection, you must have been their husband, wife or civil partner at the time of their application for asylum.

a11 Stateless Person

If you or your:

- husband, wife, civil partner; or
- parent(s), step-parent

have been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person in the UK, you or them will have received a letter and an immigration status document from the UK Home Office confirming this.

Please send the Home Office letter and Biometric Residence Permit of the person who has been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person. You should also send evidence of your relationship to the person who has been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person if it is not you.

We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a person granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person, you will only be considered a 'child' if you were under the age of 18 at the time of your parent's application to the UK Home Office.

If you are claiming student finance as the husband, wife or civil partner of someone who has been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person, you must have been their husband, wife or civil partner at the time of their application.

a12 Indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a victim of domestic violence or abuse

If you have been granted indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a victim of domestic violence or abuse, you will have received a letter from the Home Office confirming this. Please send the Home Office letter and your Biometric Residence Permit.

a13 Section 67

If you have been granted 'leave to remain' in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 or are the dependant child of someone who has, you will have received a letter and an Immigration Status Document from the UK Home Office confirming this.

Please send the Biometric Residence Permit of the person who has been granted leave to remain. You should also send evidence of your relationship to the person who has been granted leave to remain if it is not you.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a person granted leave to remain, you will only be considered a 'child' if you were under the age of 18 at the time of your parent's application to the Home Office.

a14 Calais leave

If you have been granted 'Calais leave' in the UK, or are the dependent child of someone who has, you, or they, will have received an Immigration Status document from the Home Office confirming this.

Please send the Biometric Residence Permit of the person who has been granted Calais leave. You should also send evidence of your relationship to the person who has been granted Calais leave if it is not you.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a person granted Calais leave, you will only be considered a 'child' if you were under the age of 18 at the time of your parent's application to the Home Office.

a15 Long residence

&16 To be eligible for support under the long residence category you must have lawful ordinary residence in the UK for the three year period before the first day of the first academic year of your course and must be resident in England.

This means that you must have held a form of leave to remain issued by the Home Office for the whole of the three year period before the first day of the first academic year of your course.

If you are under 18 on the first day of the first academic year of your course, you must also have lived in the UK for at least seven years.

If you are 18 or above on the first day of the first academic year of your course, you must also have lived in the UK for at least half of your life or 20 years.

You will need to send us evidence of your date of entry into the UK/residency history. We'll contact you to let you know what you need to send.

b2 Refugee status

If you have refugee status you should provide your address details from the point your status was granted or up to a maximum of three years if your status was granted prior to that point.

Section 3 Residence

b2 &4	Date study begins between	Date academic year begins
	1 August until 31 December inclusive	1 September
	1 January until 31 March inclusive	1 January
	1 April until 30 June inclusive	1 April
	1 July until 31 July inclusive	1 July

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
a1	UK nationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you have provided your adoption certificate as part of section 2, you must provide your UK passport or birth certificate to prove your UK nationality. If you were born outside the UK and have a British birth certificate issued by a British consulate, send this instead of your passport or a letter or other document.
a2	EU nationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passport or national identity card.
a4	Parent's Swiss nationality and your relationship to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your parent's passport or national identity card. Your birth certificate or equivalent.
a5	Residency of Swiss national parent	<p>One of the below with a signed letter from your Swiss parent stating their address and that they live(d) there on the first day of the academic year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bank statement Payslip Tenancy agreement/Mortgage statement Utility bill Local Authority correspondence Government Department correspondence.
a6	<p>European Economic Area (EEA) or Swiss nationality</p> <p>Employment of the EEA or Swiss national who is working, or has worked in the UK</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original passport or national identity card. <p>Send one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A P60 or a letter from employer if currently working. Audited accounts, tax returns or details of income if self-employed. A letter from employer confirming the intention to continue working whilst studying. A P45, P60 or letter from previous employer if currently looking for work or previously worked in the UK.

Section 3

Residence

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
a7	Child of a Turkish Worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your parent's passport or national identity card <p>We also need evidence of your Turkish parent's employment in the UK, send us:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a contract of employment
a8	Settled status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Original UK passport or a letter from the Home Office which confirms immigration status. Original Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a9	Refugee status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally an original passport. Original Biometric Residence Permit. Evidence to confirm your relationship to the person who has been granted refugee status.
	Relationship to person holding Refugee status if it is not you	We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.
a10	Humanitarian Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally an original passport. Original Biometric Residence Permit. Evidence to confirm your relationship to the person who has been granted Humanitarian Protection status.
	Relationship to person holding Humanitarian Protection status if it is not you	We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.
a11	Stateless Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Home Office letter. Original Biometric Residence Permit. Evidence to confirm your relationship to the person who has been granted 'leave to remain' as a Stateless Person.
	Relationship to person holding 'leave to remain' as a Stateless person if it is not you	We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.

Section 3

Residence

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
a12	Indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a victim of domestic violence or abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Home Office letter and a Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a13	Leave to remain in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016 Relationship to person holding this status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Home Office letter and Biometric Residence Permit of the person who has been granted 'leave to remain' in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016. <p>You should also send evidence of your relationship to the person if you are the dependant child of someone who has been granted 'leave to remain' in the UK under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.</p>
a14	Calais leave in the UK Relationship to person holding this status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Home Office letter and a Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence to confirm your relationship to the person who has been granted this status.

Section 4 About your course and university or college

b Course name

If the new course details you give us can't be confirmed yet, your student funding may be delayed.

Course length

If you're studying part-time and want to apply for DSAs you must meet one of the following:

If you started your part-time course before 1 September 2012, you must be planning to complete your course in no more than twice the time it would take you to finish it if you were studying full-time. For example, if the course you are studying takes 3 years to complete on a full-time basis, you must complete it in no more than 6 years studying part-time.

If you start your part-time course on or after 1 September 2012, you must be planning to complete your course in no more than four times the time it would take you to finish it if you were studying full-time in order to receive support. For example, if the course you are studying takes 3 years to complete on a full-time basis, you must complete it in no more than 12 years studying part-time.

c Term details

You should select 'Work placement' if you will be working in the UK or abroad as part of your course during this academic year or your placement is part of a sandwich course.

e Placement details

If you don't know where your placement will be yet you should let us know as soon as possible.

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
e	Unpaid placement type	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Photocopied evidence confirming the location of your unpaid placement.

Section 5 Your university or college

Notes

The Equality Act 2010 has made it illegal for universities and colleges to discriminate against disabled students by treating them less favourably in their admissions policies or the services they provide. Under the Act, universities and colleges must make reasonable adjustments so that disabled students are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with other students who are not disabled.

This means that you can tell your university or college about your disability, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty in complete confidence to make sure that you receive the support you need. However, if you do not want to tell your university or college, you should include a letter explaining why you did not want to pass the form to your university or college to complete this section. You should also include a university acceptance letter or similar confirming you've been accepted onto the course.

Section 6

Your disability

Notes

- a** You meet the definition of a person with a disability under the Equality Act 2010 if you have a physical, sensory or mental impairment which has a substantial* and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities (including education).

*more than minor or trivial.

Evidence

	Evidence of	Evidence item requested (only send photocopied medical evidence)
a	Physical, sensory, long term health conditions or mental health conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A written statement or letter from a doctor or appropriate qualified medical professional which confirms a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.
	Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) (for example, dyslexia)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A diagnostic report, written in accordance with the 2005 SpLD Working Group Guidelines, from either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Practitioner Psychologist or• A suitably qualified specialist teacher, holding a SpLD Assessment Practicing Certificate.
	Autistic Spectrum Disorders	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A written statement or letter from a doctor or appropriate qualified medical professional which confirms a substantial and long term adverse effect on your ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Statement of Special Educational Needs (SEN) issued by a Local Authority.

Terms and Conditions

If you cannot sign this form, it must be signed on your behalf by your attorney. The Power of Attorney letter must be sent with this application before a signature from that attorney will be accepted.

You must notify SLC about any change in your circumstances which may affect your entitlement to financial support. The most common change of circumstance for students would be if:

- you are absent from the course for more than 60 days because of illness;
- you are absent for any other reason;
- you leave, abandon or are expelled from the course;
- you stop attending the course and do not intend, or are not allowed, to return for the rest of the academic year;
- you transfer to a different course at the same, or a different, university or college;
- you transfer from a full-time to a part-time course;
- you repeat part or all of a year of your course; or
- the date of the start or end of your course changes.

Privacy Notice

SLC and the Department for Education are joint Data Controllers under the Data Protection Legislation. We hold information for the purposes specified in our notification to the Information Commissioner including determining eligibility for student finance, assessing the maximum amount of financial support available, payment of student finance and the detection and prevention of fraud, and may use this information for any of these.

For further details about the way your information is used, who is responsible for it and the rights you have in connection with it, please refer to our full Privacy Notice available online at www.gov.uk/studentfinance

If you don't have internet access, please call us on **0300 100 0607** and we can send a copy to you.