
International Disabled Student Support SERVICE STATEMENT



International and EU students studying in the UK are unable to access UK government funding to support disabilities or specific learning differences. Under the terms of the Equality Act we have a duty of care to any student without access to this funding, to provide anticipatory and reasonable adjustments, aids and services that will support you during your studies.

If you are a tier 4 visa student, you should be aware that any disability related absences have to be treated in accordance with the attendance requirements for your visa. We are not able to make any exceptions should you become unwell and unable to attend your course.

If you have a disability or specific learning difference we recommend that you contact one of our Learning Support Managers before you start your studies with us, so that we understand your requirements before you arrive. There will be limitations on the support we can offer to students with complex needs so you may be required to obtain funding for some or all of your support from your sponsor/parents, your home country government or charitable organisations.

What can you expect?

1. Adaptations to Learning and Living environments

- We will provide some adaptations to our on-campus accommodation. For example vibrating emergency alert systems, and a small number of flats that are adapted for wheelchair users.
- You may be required to provide your own specialist/adaptive equipment if we are unable to make major adaptations to university buildings (for example hoists or other independence aids).

2. Enhancing your Learning

- We are able to provide access to a wide range of staff who can help you develop effective study and research strategies.
- We will offer some reasonable adjustments to help you access your studies. These will depend on your needs and the requirements of your course. You will have access to Learning Development Tutors and Learning & Teaching Librarians to help you develop effective study and research practices.
- We can loan certain equipment - for example, laptops equipped with assistive software / computer programmes and packages (subject to availability).
- We also offer access to self-help and study strategy information which includes free apps and software programmes to enhance your learning.

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3. Obtaining diagnostic or medical evidence

In order to demonstrate whether you are eligible for specialist support you will be required to provide diagnostic or medical evidence. This evidence will need to be from either a medical practitioner if you have a disability or long term health condition and be officially translated into English.

If you have dyslexia or other specific learning difference we will need diagnostic evidence that was undertaken after your 16th birthday.

We can provide you with services to help you obtain evidence should you require this you can expect:

- A Dyslexia Adviser or Learning Support Manager can provide you with further advice and guidance on the evidence you require.
- We can signpost you to diagnostic professionals and co-ordinate your appointment.
- You will be required to cover the cost of any diagnostic appointment you may need and engage with the terms and conditions of the diagnostic service.
- You will be responsible for arranging and paying for a certified translation of any evidence and diagnostic report you already have in place, should this be required as evidence.

Specialist support –If you have the required evidence (see above) to demonstrate a learning need in relation to a specific learning difference, disability or long term health condition we can provide you with individual or group support. This will be arranged on the basis of evidence of need and will have specified annual limits.

- Up to 15 hours one to one support (dyslexia tuition, mentoring and teacher for the deaf). In exceptional circumstances and when supported by evidence of need this can be reviewed to provide a further 5 session per academic year of study.
- Where possible we will provide up to 5 hours per week of practical assistance – this will be in-studio support to assist with moving and carrying materials.
- This support will be provided on a shared basis (i.e. the support is shared with other students) and is dependent on availability of staff. This support cannot be guaranteed.
- We do not provide practical assistance for you on an individual basis, such as that which would be provided by a support worker. We can assist you to source a support worker if you wish to cover your own cost for this.

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4. Other support services

The following services will require you to provide your own source of funding:

- Personal care and independent living assistance - for example, assistance with shopping, cooking, feeding dressing and cleaning.
- Study support workers - for example, personal note-takers, readers and mobility assistants.
- Sign language interpreters.
- Equipment - for example, wheelchairs, computers and braille equipment.

5. Contacts

For further information, please contact disability@uca.ac.uk