



DSA1 Notes

Notes for Disabled Students' Allowance application form

2021/22

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 we ask you to send original evidence, this must be the version issued by the organisation who gave it to you. We cannot accept photocopies of the documents.

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

Visit www.gov.uk/studentfinance

How can I contact you?

You can telephone us on **0300 100 0607**

You can email us at: **dsa_team@slc.co.uk**

Make sure you email us from the address you add to page 5 of the form. You must include your full name and customer reference number in your email. This will help us to answer your query without any delays.

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.

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

Question	Evidence of	Evidence item requested
b3	Identity	Original non-UK passport. Original Biometric Residence Permit. Original UK birth or adoption certificate. We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.
b3	Name change Required if your name has changed from that which appears on your birth certificate or passport.	A photocopy of: Change of name deed Marriage/divorce certificate Civil partnership/dissolution certificate

Notes **a1 UK national**

You are a UK national if you have a UK passport or are eligible to apply for one. If you have provided your UK passport details in section 2, you do not need to send any further evidence of your UK nationality.

Armed forces

If you, your parents or partner are members of the armed forces, you must apply for student finance in the UK country where you were ordinarily resident when you/they enlisted, unless you are permanently living 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.

a2 Irish citizen

If you hold a UK passport, you should provide your passport details in section 2 as you do not need to send further evidence of your nationality.

a3 Family member of a UK national

By family member, you must be the:

- husband, wife, civil partner;
- child or step-child

of a UK national.

If you are claiming student finance as the child or step-child of a UK national, the term ‘child’ means a person ‘under the age of 21; or dependants of the person or the person’s spouse or civil partner.’

a4 Settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme

To prove your immigration status, you need to provide us with a share code. Go to www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status to generate the code. Once generated, the code will expire after 30 days. You should return your application form within 10 days of generating the share code.

We will use your share code to confirm your identity with the Home Office. When you give us your share code you do not need to send identity evidence.

a5 Child of a Swiss national

To get student finance as a child of a Swiss national, your parent or step-parent must have settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme, and be resident in the UK on the first day of the academic year. You must have pre-settled status and be ordinarily resident in the UK, Gibraltar, EEA or Switzerland for three years prior to the first day of your first academic year.

Go to the residency status section on page 9 to find out when your academic year starts.

To prove your immigration status, you need to provide us with a share code. To prove your parent or step-parent’s immigration status, you need to provide us with their date of birth and share code. Go to www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status to generate the codes. Once

generated, the codes will expire after 30 days. You should return the application form within 10 days of generating the share codes.

We will use your share code to confirm your identity with the Home Office. When you give us your share code you do not need to send identity evidence unless it is required as proof of relationship. We will still need identity evidence from your parent or step-parent.

a6 EEA or Swiss worker

By family member, you must be the:

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

of the EEA or Swiss national.

To get student finance as the family member of an EEA or Swiss national who is working, has worked or is looking for work in the UK, you and your family member must have settled or pre-settled status through the EU Settlement Scheme.

To prove your immigration status, you need to provide us with a share code.

To prove your family member's immigration status, you need to provide us with their date of birth and share code. Go to

www.gov.uk/view-prove-immigration-status to generate the codes.

Once generated, the codes will expire after 30 days. You should return your application form within 10 days of generating the share codes.

We will use your share code to confirm your identity with the Home Office. When you give us your share code you do not need to send identity evidence unless it is required as proof of relationship. We will still need identity evidence from your family member.

You do not need to provide a share code if you:

- are an Irish citizen; or
- have a Frontier Worker Permit.

Your family member does not need to provide a share code if they have a Frontier Worker Permit.

If your child, son or daughter-in-law or child's civil partner is the worker you must be dependent on them.

If your parent is the EEA or Swiss worker, 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 or Swiss worker parent has died or left the UK and the child is staying on in the UK to finish their education.

a7 Child of a Turkish worker

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

a8 'Settled status'

'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 been granted 'indefinite leave to remain'.
- You have a right of abode in the UK.

Further information about immigration issues can be obtained from the Home Office.

If you have been granted 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' in the UK as a victim of domestic violence or abuse, provide details 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 on 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 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.

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
- parent(s), step-parent

have been granted Humanitarian Protection, you, or they, will have received a letter and an immigration status document from the Home Office 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 they, will have received a letter and an immigration status document from the UK Home Office confirming this.

If you are claiming student finance as the 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 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.

a13 Section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016

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, or they, will have received a letter and an immigration status document from the UK Home Office confirming this.

If you are claiming student finance as the dependent child or step-child of a person granted 'Leave to Remain' under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016, 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 UK Home Office confirming this.

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 Bereaved partner

If you have been granted 'Indefinite Leave to Remain' in the UK as a bereaved partner, you will have received a letter from the Home Office confirming this.

a16 Long residency

&17 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

Section 3 Residence

means 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.

b2 Residency status

&3 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.

If you have been granted:

- ‘Indefinite Leave to Remain’ as the victim of domestic violence or abuse; or
 - ‘Leave to Remain’ as a person who has been a bereaved partner
- only provide address history from when you received the status. You only need to provide up to a maximum of 3 years information.

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 **e**

Question	Evidence of	Original evidence item required
a1	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, a letter or other document.
a2	Irish citizenship	Your ROI or EU passport.

Question	Evidence of	Original evidence item required
a3	Family member of a UK national	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your family member's passport; and • Proof of your relationship with your UK national family member. This may be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • your marriage or civil partnership certificate; or • a birth certificate showing your name and the UK national's name; and • the marriage or civil partnership certificate if you or the UK national are a step-parent or step-child.
a4	Settled or pre-settled status under the EU Settlement Scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you are providing a share code, send confirmation of your EU Settlement Status award from the Home Office. • If you are unable to provide a share code, send your EU passport or national identity card.
a5	Parent/step-parent's Swiss nationality and your relationship to them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of your EU Settlement Status award from the Home Office; and • Your parent or step-parent's passport or national identity card (confirming their Swiss nationality); and • Your birth certificate or equivalent.
a5	Residency of Swiss national parent/step-parent	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter signed by your parent to confirm they are/were living in the UK on the first day of your academic year; and • Bank statement; or • Payslip (showing home address); or • Tenancy agreement/Mortgage statement; or • Recent utility bill; or • Local Authority correspondence; or • Government department correspondence.
a6	EEA or Swiss nationality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of your EU Settlement Status award from the Home Office; and • Your family member's passport or national identity card.

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Residence

Question	Evidence of	Original evidence item required
a6	Employment of the EEA or Swiss national who is working, has worked or is looking for work in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P60 or letter from employer; or • Audited accounts, tax returns or details of income if self-employed; or • Letter from employer confirming intention to continue working while studying; or • P45, P60 or letter from previous employer if currently looking for work or previously worked in the UK.
a7	The child of a Turkish worker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit; and • Your parent's passport or national identity card. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a7	Turkish worker's employment in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your parent's contract of employment as proof of their employment in the UK.
a8	'Settled status'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confirmation of your immigration status For example, your UK passport, Biometric Residence Permit or Home Office letter. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, 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 a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a9	Relationship to person holding Refugee status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of your relationship to the person who has been granted refugee status.

Section 3

Residence

Question	Evidence of	Original evidence item required
a10	Humanitarian Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a10	Relationship to person holding Humanitarian Protection status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of your relationship to the person who has been granted Humanitarian Protection status.
a11	Stateless Person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a11	Relationship to person holding Stateless Person status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of your relationship to the person who has been granted Stateless Person status.
a12	Indefinite Leave to Remain in the UK as the victim of domestic violence or abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status 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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a13	Relationship to person holding this status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of your relationship to the person who has been granted 'Leave to Remain' under section 67 of the Immigration Act 2016.

Section 3

Residence

Question	Evidence of	Original evidence item required
a14	Calais leave in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a14	Relationship to person holding this status if it is not you	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proof of your relationship to the person who has been granted this status.
a15	Indefinite leave to remain in the UK as a bereaved partner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a16 and a17	Immigration status in the UK	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A Home Office letter and an immigration status document, normally a passport or Biometric Residence Permit. <p>We will only use your Biometric Residence Permit to validate your identity and residency status, no other data from it will be used or stored.</p>
a16 and a17	<p>If on the first day of the first academic year you'll be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • under 18 and have lived in the UK and Islands for at least seven years <p>or</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 18 or above and have lived in the UK and Islands for at least half of your life or 20 years 	<p>School letter and records on headed paper, signed by the Deputy Head or Head Teacher within the school. The letter and records should confirm dates you were in attendance of the school.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letter from a GP. • Confirmation of university/college attendance. • Council tax bill. • Payslips/P60/P45/self-assessed tax return. • Confirmation of employment from your employer. This should be on company headed paper and signed by a senior member of staff with contact details provided.

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 DSA 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.

Question	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

Question	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.
a	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.
a	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.