

Help for Students with Cystic Fibrosis

Disabled Students Allowance

This is a non means-tested grant to help students in higher education with extra expenses that they may incur as a direct result of a disability, ongoing health condition or learning difficulty. Many adults with cystic fibrosis have been able to access these funds when going to university.

To qualify - A student with special needs must be undertaking an undergraduate or postgraduate course (including a distance-learning course) that is *either* full-time and lasting at least one year *or* part-time lasting at least one year but not taking more than twice as long to complete as an equivalent full-time course.

The DSA is awarded on top of the standard student finance package and doesn't have to be paid back. It is **not** means-tested (i.e. your/your family's income does not count) and is **not** treated as income for any other purposes (e.g. when assessing entitlement to student loans). The amount you get depends on the type of extra help you need. It will involve equipment (*pre-ordered for you*) or the reimbursement of approved costs (*retaining receipts to claim back specific expenditure*) but **not** cash payments.

Help available: There are 4 types of award - equipment, carer, other expenses, travel costs.

1. **Specialist equipment allowance** - for major pieces equipment needed to help you participate in the course - e.g. computer, printer, fridge to store medication
2. **Non-medical helper's allowance** - for help needed to benefit from the course - e.g. sign language interpreter, specialist tuition
3. **General/other expenditure allowance** - to cover costs relating to study, arising from a disability - e.g. extra costs of books, photocopying, heating or dietary needs, that might be incurred if you have to study for long periods at home, because of your disability.
4. **Travel costs** - for additional travel expenses related to your disability

To claim - Make your application through **Student Finance England** - (*see link below*):

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034900

There are 2 versions of the DSA1 form:

- **Short version:** for full-time students who are *also* applying for student finance. If you have already applied for student finance and stated on your application that you want to apply for DSAs, you will receive a pre-printed form with your personal details.
- **Full version:** for full-time students who are *only* applying for DSAs (not finance) *or* for all part-time, postgraduate & distance learning students, whether or not they're applying for student finance.

You need to supply evidence of your condition with your application. At Heartlands, we have a standard support letter, to explain about CF and the type of help that students may require. You will be allocated an assessor who will look at your needs and decide how a DSA could help you.

The Joseph Levy Memorial Trust

This fund was established following a bequest by the late Joseph Levy, co-founder of the CF Trust. It aims to help adults with Cystic Fibrosis, (aged 18 years or over), to develop their careers through Further Education, University Education or other professional qualifications.

Grants will be considered to cover the cost of tuition, living expenses, examination fees or other costs of a similar nature which are required to assist the applicant to progress their career. The deadline for applications is 31 March: awards are decided in mid-June. **To apply:** write to Mr Peter Levy OBE, Pegasus House, 37/43 Sackville Street, London W1S 3DL. or contact Mrs Elizabeth Neville - tel: 020 7333 8118 or email: elizabeth.neville@shafesbury.co.uk.