

Evaluation of Need and DSA funded support



This document explains the assessment process of identifying indicators of a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD).

Step 1: Welcome Appointment.

The Welcome Appointment explores indicators of SpLD.

- Prior to this appointment you will be sent an initial form to explore any indicators of dyslexia and dyspraxia.
- Allow up to 1 hour for this appointment

Following your Welcome Appointment you can arrange support by contacting the team via spld@edgehill.ac.uk and letting us know your availability. The team will then arrange a support appointment for you. We offer support to all our students from the first contact with the service.

Step 2: Evaluation of Need

If you decide to go forward for a formal Evaluation of Need you will need to make a contribution of £100 towards the cost of the Evaluation of Need, the majority of which is subsidised by the university.

The Evaluation of Need meets DSA funding body requirements.

- The appointment is with an approved assessor
- The assessment will take up to 2½ hours
- It measures cognitive skills, identifies learning strengths and challenges
- A full report will be sent to you by email within 2 weeks of the assessment.

The cost of the evaluation is subsidised by the University. You will be required to contribute £100 towards the cost of the Evaluation of Need.

The Evaluation of Need has been introduced by the assessment governing body to enable assessments and DSA applications during Covid. We will endeavor to offer students the opportunity to access a further top up assessment to provide a formal diagnosis, once it is safe to do so.

Step 3: Next Steps Appointment

This appointment will focus on the results of the Evaluation of Need. We will discuss support and technology that you may find useful.

- The appointment will take up to 1 hour
- Any questions you have arising from the report will be addressed
- You will receive guidance in applying for the Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA)*
- In this appointment we will complete:
 - Student Support Plan (SSP)
 - Disability Declaration
 - Examination Modifications Requests
 - Learner Agreement forms

* Disabled Students' Allowances (DSA). Please bring your Student Finance customer reference number, or NHS Bursary reference number with you to this appointment if you have not already applied for DSA. Some DSA forms also ask for start and end dates of your course, and for your bank details.

Step 4: The Study Needs Assessment follows on from your DSA application

Following your application for DSA funding, you will receive an 'Eligibility Notification' letter from your funding body. This may ask you to arrange an appointment for a Study Needs Assessment.

- Contact your funding body if you have not received this within 3-4 weeks of applying
- You can find and choose an approved assessment centre via:
<https://media.slc.co.uk/dsaneeds/pdf/find-a-needs-assessment-centre.pdf>
- The Study Needs Assessor will explore your specific learning requirements and make recommendations to your funding body

Following your Needs Assessment

- Your funding body will send you your 'Entitlement Notification' about specialist equipment and support and instructions for you to follow to access these.

Access support

- By contacting the SpLD Support Team to arrange this
- Keep us informed of any issues as they arise

Further information

Please contact the SpLD Support team who would be happy to answer any questions and provide advice and guidance.

Email: spld@edgehill.ac.uk

Tel: 01695 657526

ehu.ac.uk/spld