

STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE (SSIN)

Arrangements for students funded under the Education
(Student Support) Regulations

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES (DSAs)

SSIN 02/18
February 2018

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in Higher Education Providers; DSA assessors, assessment centres and suppliers; The Disabled Students' Allowance Quality Assurance Group; Student Finance advisors, and The Student Loans Company

Dear Colleagues,

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) – unregistered Non-Medical Help providers

The NMH assurance framework was introduced in April 2016 and required all new NMH support agreements to be provided by registered, suitably qualified professionals. This process has been managed by DSA-QAG.

At that time it was decided to allow providers who were already delivering NMH services to existing students to continue to do so until August 2018 without the need for the provider to register, unless their intention was to support new students or provide different support above what was already agreed.

After consideration, we can now confirm that unregistered NMH providers may continue to deliver DSAs funded support until the end of the student's current course.

In addition, where students continue from an undergraduate course to a postgraduate course without a break and continue at the same Higher Education Provider, their current NMH provider can continue to provide support if they remain unregistered. However, where students break their study between postgraduate and undergraduate courses, or change their Higher Education Provider, new DSA-QAG registered NMH providers must be engaged. As is the case now, all new types of support will only be agreed with an NMH provider who is registered with DSA-QAG.

This decision should help to avoid unnecessary disruption for students who may be approaching their final years of study.

SLC reserve the right to review any agreements that are in place with unregistered providers to ensure that the support is being provided by an appropriate support worker.

We hope that this information is helpful.

Disabled Students Allowances Team,
Higher & Further Education Directorate, Department for Education,
Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, SW1P 3BT
Email: Disabled.STUDENTALLOWANCES@education.gov.uk