



**Northumbria
University**
NEWCASTLE

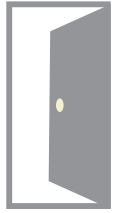
Dyslexia and Specific Learning Difficulties Support

Information, advice, guidance and support for students with dyslexia or other Specific Learning Difficulties



Student Life and Wellbeing

Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs)



The British Dyslexia Association (2018) describes **Dyslexia** as a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD) that is neurological in origin, occurs independently of intelligence and is lifelong. Dyslexia affects the way information is processed, stored and retrieved, with problems of memory and speed of processing. This can affect learning and the acquisition of literacy skills. Dyslexia also affects time perception, organisation and sequencing skills. Problem solving or creativity can be areas of strength. Dyslexia can occur alongside other SpLDs, such as dyspraxia and ADHD.

- Dyslexia affects ‘around 10% of the population’ (BDA 2018)
- In 2018/19, there were 933 students with dyslexia registered with the Disability and Dyslexia Support Team at Northumbria University
- Research suggests that many students with dyslexia only discover this once they are at university.

Dyspraxia is a specific learning difficulty which may impact on a number of areas including: organisational skills, time management, self-esteem and motor co-ordination.

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) can result in inattention, restlessness, impulsive, erratic, unpredictable and inappropriate behaviour.

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)

Most UK students with dyslexia will be eligible for DSAs from their funding body (eg Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency Scotland and NHS). DSAs are intended to help pay for extra costs related to study if they are directly connected with dyslexia or SPLD, such as specialist software or study skills tutorials. These may be provided by the University or an external provider.

In order to apply for DSAs you will need to provide evidence of dyslexia or SpLD. This would be a diagnostic Psychological Report (or equivalent from a suitably qualified practitioner). The Disability and Dyslexia Support Team can advise whether the report is appropriate for DSAs. The application process for DSAs may take some time; however, you could access up to six study skills support tutorials during this process.

DSAs are not means-tested, they are not a loan and any equipment purchased from DSAs remains your property at the end of the course – you do not have to give it back. However, if you leave your course early your funding body may decide to recover some or all of the DSAs.



How we can help you as a student with Dyslexia/Other SpLDs

- Arrange for a Psychological Assessment if required
- Provide one-to-one specialist study skills tutorials with a Dyslexia Support Tutor
- Organise individual exam arrangements (eg extra time, use of a PC) as recommended by your Psychological Report
- Inform lecturers that you are dyslexic and advise them on how they can support you (with your permission)
- Support you in applying for, and managing, DSAs.

What you need to do

Please speak to a Disabilities Co-ordinator if you have concerns about dyslexia. To access support from the University you must:

- Register with the Disability and Dyslexia Support Team once enrolled at the University
- Provide a Psychological Report (or equivalent from a suitably qualified practitioner) confirming that you have dyslexia/SpLD. We can assist with arranging this for you if required.

The report should include the results of a range of appropriate tests showing underlying ability and current levels of achievement.

Dyslexia Support Tutorials

These are specialist 1:1 study skills support sessions. They are bookable, multi-sensory tutorials with a specialist Dyslexia Support Tutor

to help you to develop strategies to minimise the effects of dyslexia on your studies. It is up to you to decide whether or not you want to access these tutorials and to book them.

First tutorial

- The first tutorial is an opportunity to discuss individual concerns and to establish a starting point for tutorials.
- It provides an opportunity for you to discuss the information in your Psychological Report and ask questions.
- You will be given information on how to book tutorials and what to do if you need to re-arrange or cancel a booked appointment.

Subsequent tutorials

The tutorials are intended to help you to establish skills and strategies to enable you to become an independent learner. Tutorials are student-centred and could include:

- Research skills
- Using the Library and Library resources
- Writing skills such as planning, essay structure, writing reports, sentence structure, grammar, punctuation and spelling
- Reading strategies
- Using feedback from previous assignments and focusing on the assignment question
- Referencing
- Note taking
- Organisational skills including time management
- Use of specialist software
- Exam revision techniques
- Presentation techniques
- Spelling programmes
- Course content is your responsibility and any course issues should be discussed with relevant academic staff.



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Contact the Disability and Dyslexia Support Team

Visit us at one of the following Ask4Help points:

At City Campus

Student Central, City Campus Library
Student Central, City Campus East

At Coach Lane Campus

Student Central, Coach Lane Library

At London Campus

Ground Floor

At Amsterdam Campus

Fraijlemaborg Building

**Prospective students can email us at:
sv.disability@northumbria.ac.uk**

**Current Northumbria students:
Please enquire via the Student Portal:
myportal.northumbria.ac.uk**

**Tel: 0191 227 4127
northumbria.ac.uk/disability**

If you are a distance learner, please contact us to discuss different ways in which we can help you to access the information and support you require.

Please contact us if you require a copy of this publication in an alternative format, such as braille or large print.



**Tel: 0191 227 4646
ask4help@northumbria.ac.uk**

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