

## Evidence for dyslexia

### Evidence required for Disabled Students' Allowance funding

Student Finance England has specific guidelines on the evidence required for dyslexia in order to apply for a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

The guidelines recommend that the assessment:

- should be carried out **at or after the age of 16**, using tests which are normed for adults
- gives evidence of a significant difficulty in achieving the literacy/numeracy skills required at university
- shows that there is a discrepancy between overall intellectual ability and literacy skills
- demonstrates that learning is affected by problems with memory, visual perception, phonological processing, speed of processing or motor coordination
- shows that learning in higher education is likely to be affected.

Reports can be produced by psychologists or dyslexia specialists, but they have to use tests which have been approved by the SpLD Test Evaluation Committee. Information about these tests can be found at [www.patoss-dyslexia.org/downloads/STECDFESGuidelines20092010.pdf](http://www.patoss-dyslexia.org/downloads/STECDFESGuidelines20092010.pdf)

If an assessment was conducted before the age of 16 years, an update of skills in reading, writing and spelling, e.g. a top-up assessment, would be required. Once these requirements have been met, there is no need for any further assessments.

The tests mentioned above are intended to be used to identify dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia and Attention Deficit Disorder. It is recognised that there can be a considerable overlap between these four conditions. Medical evidence may also be accepted for dyspraxia and AD(H)D.

Please contact Disability Services for more information and advice about evidence for DSA funding.

### Will the university fund the assessment?

If you are an undergraduate and your household income is below £50,020, you can apply to the Student Funding Office for funding to cover the cost of your dyslexia assessment. A referral from Disability Services is required. When you bring a copy of your previous assessment to Disability Services, we can give you information about how to apply for this funding and where the assessment can be carried out. If you do not have a copy of your previous assessment, or if you have never been assessed, Disability Services offers a free dyslexia screening service. Please email: [disability-services@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:disability-services@bristol.ac.uk) or phone 0117 331 0444 for further information. If you are a prospective student, the University is unable to pay for your assessment until you have enrolled.

### Information for international students

If you have a dyslexia assessment report, please contact Disability Services to discuss your evidence and the support which may be available to you throughout your course. If you do not have a dyslexia assessment report, but think you might be dyslexic, Disability Services can offer you a dyslexia screening appointment.

#### Disability Services

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