

**STUDENT SUPPORT INFORMATION NOTE
(SSIN)**

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

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCE (DSA)

To: Student Finance administrators and practitioners in higher education providers; DSA needs assessors; Student Finance advisors, and The Student Loans Company

**SSIN 08/25
July 2025**

Updated Guidance on Travel Support under Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)

Dear Colleagues,

This is a notification that DfE has updated and expanded guidance on the circumstances in which DSA may be available to fund additional travel costs incurred by students as a result of their disability.

The previous guidance had been in place for some years and does not now adequately cover the increased range of recommendations that the Student Loans Company (SLC) has been receiving for additional travel costs potentially fundable under DSA. The travel guidance has therefore been updated to provide additional detail and example recommendations to help SLC officers and needs assessors determine where additional travel costs are eligible for be met by DSA and where they are not, and to ensure that decisions are consistent and in line with DSA policy.

The revised guidance can be found in Section 5 of the DSA Guidance Chapter at [dsa-guidance-2526-v10.pdf](#).

The updated guidance includes the following changes:

- We have clarified that students will qualify for DSA funding for additional travel costs only where the recommendation is supported by specific medical evidence demonstrating a clear link between the student's disability and the need for alternative travel arrangements.
- We have confirmed that DSA funding will not generally be agreed for journeys of under 3 miles (with exceptions where the student's medical evidence confirms that as a result of their disability they are unable to walk that distance, or there is no safe walking route between the

student's home and their HEP), or journeys which would take in excess of 75 minutes by public transport.

- We have confirmed that students with access to a Motability car are generally not eligible for DSA travel support unless exceptional circumstances apply.
- We have provided some illustrative examples to help clarify what types of recommendations would be in line with our policy intent and what types of recommendations would not.

The updated guidance will apply from **1st September 2025**. Students whose eligibility for travel support funded by DSA has already been agreed by SLC will not be re-assessed under the updated guidance. Where SLC receives a new recommendation for travel support for a student who already has a travel agreement in place, for example due to a change in travel circumstances, then SLC will not re-assess the student's eligibility for travel support but will apply the rest of the updated guidance when considering the recommendation (for example, in relation to reasonable commute times, use of licensed providers, etc)

If you have any queries, please contact the Disabled Students' Allowance Team at:

Disabled.STUDENTALLOWANCES@education.gov.uk

Regards

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