

Guide for Applicants with Disabilities and Specific Learning Differences (SpLD)

by the Disability and Neurodiversity team (DNT)

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What is a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 (EA) defines disability as a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to perform day to day activities. So, e.g. if you have problems with mobility, seeing or hearing, mental health, social communication, a specific learning difference (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or are Neurodiverse (ADHD or/and autism) or long-term medical condition you may be covered by the EA and should see our Disability Advisors for an appointment.

What we do

We put in place support and adjustments to enable you to study successfully at SOAS. These can include the following once you have completed enrolment at SOAS:

- Drop-in appointments for general enquiries and longer appointments for more complex enquiries
- Support and advice on SpLDs, including screenings for SpLDs
 - An individual Study Inclusion Plan (SIP). Please see online for [more information on SIPs](#).
- Exam arrangements

- Library services e.g. quiet study rooms, extended loans and scanning services
- Advice on Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) or you can check the government website for specific [information on DSA](#)
- Specialist study skills support including workshops
- Adapted accommodation
- Emergency Evacuation plans and campus accessibility
- Assistive Technology training and loan equipment
- Liaise with staff across SOAS
- Signpost you to other support services in the [Student Advice and Well-being Team](#)

Contacting the DNT prior to enrolment at SOAS

If you require specialist support e.g. assistance with access around the campus or halls of residence, a sign language interpreter or note-taker **please contact the Disability Advisors in good time before the start of your course**. This could include students who are Blind or with Visual Impairments, d/Deaf or Hard of Hearing students, students with Autism, students who use mobility aids, or other disabilities that may require specific support. We strongly encourage you to contact DNT to request an appointment with a Disability Advisor on disabilities@soas.ac.uk.

After completing your enrolment at SOAS, you'll be able to register with the DNT by completing a Confidentiality Agreement form and providing supporting documentation. If your documentation is sufficient to meet the [Supporting Documentation Criteria](#), the Disability Advisor will create your Study Inclusion Plan (SIP). Once you have published your SIP, it will automatically be sent to your course convenors and lecturers. Please see the webpage for some [extra information on SIPs](#).

Student Accommodation

Please [contact the Accommodation Office](#) to discuss your particular accessibility and accommodation requirements prior to application – doing this as soon as possible helps you to have the best chance of securing a room to meet your specific requirements. Later applications cannot be guaranteed availability. To discuss your requirements, please speak to a Disability Advisor and look at the [Accommodation Webpage](#) for more information.



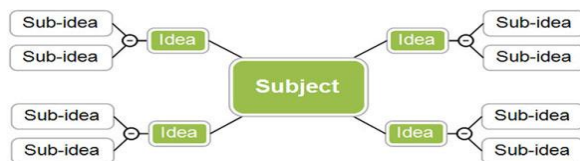
Campus location, parking and transport

SOAS is located on one campus at [Russell Square](#). There is no general student parking available on campus, but if you are a Blue Badge holder please contact us for details of on-site and local disabled parking as well as congestion charge discount. (Disabled students may also be eligible for Freedom Passes on London Transport.)



Facilities available to all SOAS students

- Specialist software on all SOAS PCs for student use: Claro Read (a screen reading, spelling and grammar programme) Dragon Naturally Speaking (a software application which converts the voice to text), and Mind Manager (a mind-mapping programme)
- The Learning and Teaching Enhancement team (LTE) provides [self-help online study resources](#) and workshops on essay-writing, reading and more.
- Induction Loop Systems for students with hearing difficulties are provided in the large lecture theatres at SOAS and portable loop systems are available at reception points across the school.



External funding available for disabled students

If you are eligible for student finance from Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland or the Students Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS) you may also be eligible for the Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

This funding can pay for extra costs you incur when you are studying because of your condition e.g.



- IT equipment (e.g. a computer and printer)
- Assistive Technology software and assistive Technology training
- mentoring
- specialist 1-1 study skills support
- travel costs.
- Note taking
- Printing costs

To apply for DSA, for more details and to apply online [visit the DSA website.](#)

International students are not eligible for the DSA but SOAS will provide support and adjustments for you e.g. applying for a loan laptop for the duration of their course.

What about confidentiality?

We assure you that SOAS will treat your sensitive personal information with the utmost confidentiality. To enable DNT to arrange adjustments and coordinate your support we may

need to share some limited information with departments across SOAS or external agencies. In line with the General Data Protection Regulation 2018, this would only be with your explicit consent on our Confidentiality Agreement. When students register with DNT they will be asked to complete a Confidentiality Agreement. This gives consent to share your information on a 'need to know' basis.

Who to contact for support in Student Advice and Wellbeing (SAaW)

disabilities@soas.ac.uk

- To speak to a disability advisor, Angie, Ros, Jack or Bernie
- For DSA drop-in appointments with Vicky or Nancy
- To speak to a Learning Advisor, Carol, Hugo, Rosey or Katherine about SpLDs

studentadviceandwellbeing@soas.ac.uk

- To speak to a counsellor about wellbeing support and advice

advice@soas.ac.uk

- To speak to an advisor about finance and immigration

External Contacts

[Student Finance England \(SFE\)](https://www.studentfinance.gov.uk/):- 0300 100 0607

[Student Awards Agency Scotland \(SAAS\)](https://www.studentfinance.gov.uk/scotland/):- 0300 100 0609

[Student Finance Wales \(SFW\)](https://www.studentfinance.gov.uk/wales/):- 0300 200 4050

[Northern Ireland \(SFNI\)](https://www.studentfinance.gov.uk/northern-ireland/):- 0300 100 00 77 (Undergraduates) 0300 100 0493 (Postgraduates)

Where we are based

Student Advice and Wellbeing Department, Pebble space, Lower Ground floor, Paul Webley Wing (next to the Student Hub),

SOAS University,

Thornhaugh Street, London WC1H 0XG

Visit [the Disability and Neurodiversity Team website](https://www.soas.ac.uk/disability/) for more information on disability support.