

# SEND support at university



This easy read information is from [Ask Us Nottinghamshire - Young People's Zone](#).



This document tells you about the help you can get at university if you have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities.

## Going to university



Going to university can be a really exciting time in your life!



University gives you the chance to be more independent and have new experiences.



Universities have lots of support for students with SEND.



This is to make sure everyone can experience life at university.

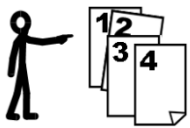
## Things to think about before choosing a university



If you have applied to go to university, there are some big things to think about before you accept an offer.



You need to think about:



- Choosing the right university and course.



- Accommodation.



- Facilities.



- Finance (money).



- Study materials.

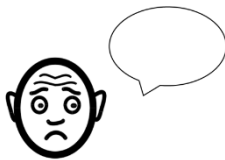
## Choosing the right university and course



Making sure you choose the right university and subject for you is very important.



Choosing a course that you are interested in will mean you will enjoy your studies.



If you are worried that you might need extra support with your course, get in touch with the university to talk to them.



Universities have staff to help disabled students with their application, transition and experience at university.



You want to make sure that you feel comfortable and confident.



Usually, your university will be able to make changes so you get the support or equipment you need to do well.



[University League Tables](#) can be a good place to start when thinking about which universities you want to apply to.



Nottinghamshire's SEND Local Offer is useful for anyone thinking about university. [See their page about Post 16, further and higher education.](#)

## Accommodation



Moving away from home is a big life change, so it is important to make where you're living as comfortable as possible.



If you are moving into university accommodation, talk with the university first to make sure it is suited to your needs.



If you are thinking about living in rented accommodation, you will need to do some research to make sure you live somewhere safe and accessible.

unipol

You can talk to local letting agencies to ask them about their accessibility, or [look on Unipol](#).



Don't forget you will need to travel to the university for classes, so make sure you don't choose to live somewhere too far away.



Often, universities can offer transport options, so talk to them about this.



Once you are living away from home, you will be in charge of your own cooking and cleaning!



Make sure you know how to make a few simple meals and think about how much money you will need to spend on food.



Occasionally universities can work with social care providers, if you have additional support needs that mean you need support with independence and self-care skills.



Please talk to your Local Authority and university if you think this applies to you.

## Facilities



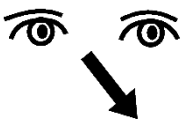
It is important that the university you go to can meet your needs.



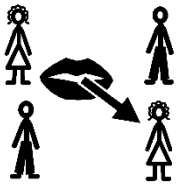
One of the best ways to find this out is to go to open days at the universities you are interested in.



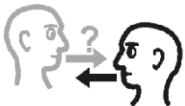
Open days will give you the chance to:



- See the university in person.



- Talk to the lecturers and support teams.



- Get answers to any questions you might have.



There are lots of ways your university may be able to support you, such as:



- Pairing you with a learning assistant.



- Having someone who can take notes for you.



- Making sure you can sit in a certain spot.



- Giving you class material ahead of time.



- Extending your deadlines. (Giving you longer to hand in your work.)



- Giving you extra time in exams.

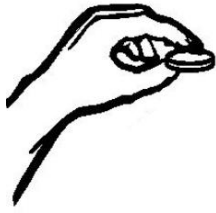


- Finding a quiet environment for you to take exams in.

## Finance (money)



When you go to university, you can take out a student loan to help you pay for your course and accommodation.



This loan must be paid back once you start earning enough money.



You may also be able to get Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), which does not have to be paid back.



To get Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), you must first go to a meeting, where your needs and abilities will be assessed, to see if you can get the allowance.



To find out more about Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), visit the government website.



It can take up to three months for your allowance to be arranged, so it is better to apply early, long before you start university, so you can have support from when you start.



You might be able to get extra funding and support.

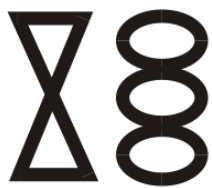


You can find out more about scholarships, grants and bursaries on the [UCAS website](#).

## Study Materials



Many university courses need you to do a lot of reading.



If reading is difficult for you, you might be able to ask your university to give you adapted study materials that meet your needs.



These materials could include:



- e-Books



- Audiobooks



- Braille



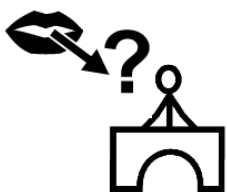
- Large print



- Digital Talking Books



- Videos



If you know which university you will be going to, you can speak with your teachers before you go, to find out more about what support they can give you.

## Where can I get help?



If you need help, [contact Ask Us Nottinghamshire](#) for information, advice or support.



The Ask Us Nottinghamshire service is here to help with a range of issues.



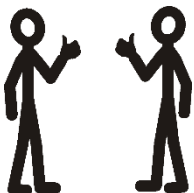
We can:



- Give you advice.



- Talk to your parents.



- Help you identify someone at your school who can support you.



If you would like to talk to us about the information you have read on this page, please contact us.



- [Visit our website.](#)



- Email: [enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@askusnotts.org.uk)



- Phone: 0800 121 7772

## Links in this document

### **Ask Us Nottinghamshire- SEND support at university**

[askusnotts.org.uk/young-people/send-support-at-university](http://askusnotts.org.uk/young-people/send-support-at-university)

### **University League Tables**

[thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings](http://thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/league-tables/rankings)

## **Your Notts Directory post 16**

<https://www.yournottsdirectory.org.uk/send-local-offer/nottinghamshire/education/post-16-education>

## **Unipol**

[unipol.org.uk/](http://unipol.org.uk/)

## **UCAS**

[ucas.com/](http://ucas.com/)

## **Contact Ask Us Nottinghamshire**

[askusnotts.org.uk/contact](http://askusnotts.org.uk/contact)

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