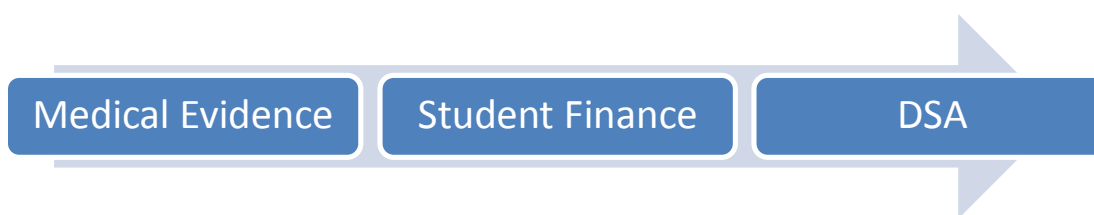


## Disabled Students' Support and Mental Health Difficulties.

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Disabled Student Support is offered to students who have Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD, for e.g. dyslexia), physical impairments or mental health difficulties. If you are a student who suffers with their mental wellbeing we want you to know that help is available. To access this support please read the information below.

### Action:

#### Step 1

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Before your learning/educational needs can be assessed you are required to send evidence that you are receiving medical treatment for your mental health, for example, if you are taking medication for anxiety or depression. This evidence should be provided in the form of a letter from your doctor, stating your condition and describing your course of treatment. This information needs to be sent to Student Finance.

#### Step 2

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Once Student Finance have received your information this will be processed. This means that Student Finance will determine whether your mental health could impact your commitment to study on a daily basis. If it is decided that a student with mental health difficulties would benefit from specific support to aid their study Student Finance will provide that student with an 'Agreement letter' (DSA Letter 1).

#### Step 3

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Once you have received your 'Letter of Agreement' DSA become your official sponsor and will explain the next step. They normally recommend you **book an 'Assessment of Need' appointment** at an Assessment Centre (for further information on this talk to your Disability Officer). You will not need to pay for this Assessment

#### Step 4

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After you have had your appointment your Assessor will sit down with you to talk about the appropriate support for your needs. The Assessment centre will send a letter and a copy of your report to the DSA (Student Finance) making suitable recommendations and agree the support. You should also receive a copy of your report.

## Step 5

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Once the DSA have received the report they will inform you of the support which is available to you. You can then action this and then submit a claim form to the DSA who will subsequently invoice you.