

# Further Education and Support for Autistic People in England

This information sheet is designed to introduce the support an autistic person may be entitled to, should they choose to engage in further education.

Colleges and universities offer a range of different courses at different levels.

As well as the **type of study** it can be important to consider the **place of study**.

- Where is the college or university located? Will it require the autistic person to use a form of **transport** and are the transport options suitable?
- Does the location require the autistic person to live away from home and if so, is the **accommodation** offered suitable to meet the autistic person's needs?
- What is the **environment** like at the place of study? Is the layout and sensory environment helpful for the autistic individual or would support need to be put in place to enable them to access areas such as dining areas, teaching rooms, study areas, and recreational areas?
- What **opportunities** does the place of study offer and are these suitable for the autistic individual? Often colleges and universities have many options for clubs and societies that can cater for a diverse range of interests and offer different types of social opportunities.

## Support

- If an autistic student has an **EHCP** then this can continue during their time at college.
- An EHCP will no longer apply at university, but the autistic student can apply for **Disabled Student Allowance** (DSA).
- Colleges and universities must make **reasonable adjustments to their admissions processes** to make them more accessible to disabled students under the Equality Act 2010.
- Colleges and universities have a duty to make reasonable adjustments to avoid putting autistic students at a disadvantage compared to non-autistic students. This applies to **all provisions, criteria and practices, physical features, auxiliary aids, and services**.
- Colleges and universities will have **additional needs or disability** services that can help autistic students access further support and adjustments. It would be useful to contact these directly and in advance of the autistic person starting their course to ensure that effective support is put in place in a timely manner. It can also be useful to find the inclusion policy often located on the college/university website to guide any communication.

## Resources

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/applying-disabled-students%E2%80%99-allowance-dsa>

<https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/individual-needs/disabled-students>

<https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/resources/adjustments-disabled-students-and-apprentices>

[https://autismwales.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Autism-A-Guide-for-Further-Education-College\\_Eng-1.pdf](https://autismwales.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Autism-A-Guide-for-Further-Education-College_Eng-1.pdf)

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/education/resolving-differences/disability-discrimination-in-further-and-higher-ed>

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