



Overview of disability support in the United Kingdom

United Kingdom

Case study overview

Disability support nationally is provided by governmental and non-governmental bodies, policies and initiatives. Provision of support within the UK higher education establishments is provided by dedicated disability support offices and they have the role to liaise with the student (during the programme application process and during their period of studies), to identify and provide the necessary support services, to liaise with the internal academic and administrative departments, and to liaise with external 3rd party organisations. Access to education for individuals with disabilities therefore is a wide ranging set of activities that involves ability to make reasonable adjustments to infrastructure and procedures and also the responsibilities of the student.

A number of **specific governmental bodies** and activities (**policies and initiatives**) relating to disability support in higher education are identified below:

Specific governmental bodies

- **Equality and Human Rights Commission.** Parliament gave the Commission the mandate to challenge discrimination, and to protect and promote human rights.
- The **Equality Advisory Support Service (EASS).** EASS is an advice service aimed at individuals who need expert information, advice and support on discrimination and human rights issues and the applicable law, particularly when this is more than advice



agencies and other local organisations can provide.

Governmental: Policies and initiatives

- **All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group (APPDG)**. The All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group (APPDG) is a group of Parliamentarians of every political persuasion.

Funding to support students with disabilities is through **Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs)** which are paid on top of other student finance in order to help pay for the extra costs encountered due to a disability.

References

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- [3] All-Party Parliamentary Disability Group, [Online]. Available: <http://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/policy-campaigns/all-party-parliamentary-disability-group-appdg>
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