

Snowdon Trust Disability-related study cost grant

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

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Eligibility

- **How many times can I apply for a disability-related study cost grant? I have received a Snowdon Trust Grant before, am I still eligible to apply?**
 - o If you have previously received a Snowdon Trust Grant, you are still eligible to apply for the disability-related study cost grant. There is no limit to the number of times you can apply but we will not normally award more than three grants to the same individual.

- **What disabilities are eligible? Does my disability qualify?**
 - o If you have a diagnosis of a disability which fits broadly into one or more of the options listed, you are eligible to apply. Please note that mental health conditions, challenges or disorders (e.g. anxiety or depression) are not eligible for this grant scheme unless you also have a diagnosis of one or more of the health conditions or impairments listed.

FOUNDED IN 1981 BY THE FIRST EARL OF SNOWDON

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Disabilities supported by the Snowdon Trust disability-related study cost grant scheme (based on UCAS 2023 categories):

- A learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D)
 - A visual impairment uncorrected by glasses (e.g. blindness or partial sight)
 - A hearing impairment (e.g. D/deafness or partial hearing)
 - A physical impairment or challenges with mobility (e.g. climbing stairs or uneven surfaces), or dexterity (e.g. using a keyboard or laboratory equipment)
 - A social, behavioural or communication impairment (e.g. an autistic spectrum condition or Tourette’s Syndrome)
 - A long-term illness or health condition which may involve pain or cause fatigue, loss of concentration or breathing difficulties – including any effects from taking associated medication.
- Please note that we cannot provide an exhaustive list of all disabilities, specific health conditions or impairments, and may not be able to answer queries regarding the eligibility of a specific disability. We provide the above list as a reference point and will require evidence from your Doctor or health care provider of your diagnosed disability. Please note again that mental health conditions, challenges or disorders (e.g. anxiety or depression) are not eligible for this grant scheme unless you also have a diagnosis of one or more of the health conditions or impairments listed. If you believe, based on the information you have read in the eligibility criteria, that you meet the inclusion criteria based on disability, then you are welcome to apply.
- **Will I have to provide evidence of my disability?**
- Yes, we will ask you to provide official evidence of your disability, such as a report from your Doctor or health care provider.
- **What supporting evidence will I need to provide with my application?**
- Please refer to the guidance on how to complete your application. The section concerning panel “H - Supporting documents” will explain what documents you will need to provide us with.

- **Am I eligible to apply if I am from/ study in Scotland (or Wales, Northern Ireland or England)?**
 - Yes, home students from The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) are eligible to apply.
 - International students studying anywhere in the UK may also apply, and it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate student or other relevant visa in place for the duration of your studies.

- **Which courses are eligible? Can I apply for funding if my course has already started?**
 - Courses in [further education](https://www.gov.uk/further-education-courses) (<https://www.gov.uk/further-education-courses>), and higher education (undergraduate and postgraduate study) are eligible.
 - Yes. You can apply at any point during your course.

- **Can I apply for funding if my course has not yet started?**
 - Yes. If you have a course offer and will need accessibility arrangements to be put in place for the start of your course, you are eligible to apply before the start of your course.

- **Can I do a distance learning / online course?**
 - Yes, your course can be taught in person, online or as a hybrid. However, your course must be taught by a university or institution registered in The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland), and you must be living in the UK.

- **Can I study part time?**
 - Yes, your course can be taught part time or full time. However, your course must be taught by a university or institution registered in The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland) and you must be living in the UK.

- **I am studying Arts/ Music/ Theatre/ STEM subjects/ languages... what subject areas do the grants typically cover?**
 - The Snowdon Trust welcomes applicants from across all subject areas.

- **Is there an age limit?**
 - You must be 16 years or older. There is no upper age limit, but please note that grants are more likely to be awarded where you can provide evidence of the future plans your studies will help you achieve.

- **Can international students apply?**
 - Yes, international students can apply. You must already be studying, or have received an offer to study at a UK registered university or institution. If you are an international student, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate student or other relevant visa in place for the duration of your studies.

- **Can you help me get a Visa?**
 - No, it is your responsibility to arrange your visa and necessary documents. Your university should be able to offer you help and guidance in arranging these.

What can a disability-related study cost grant be used for?

- We award grants for specialist equipment and the cost of accessibility arrangements which directly relate to your studies, and by contributing to these disability-related study costs we hope you are able to fully participate in your studies alongside non-disabled peers.

- The grant can help with the cost of assistive technology and software, mobility equipment, the additional cost of accessible accommodation, the cost of carers accommodation, sign language interpreters, note takers and other vital human support. You may have mobility equipment requirements which are not covered by the NHS wheelchair service but are essential for you in accessing your place of study. You may have a shortfall after being awarded Disabled Students Allowance (DSA), or not be eligible to apply for DSA at all. This list is not exhaustive, but your cost needs to be related to your studies (not general cost of living or financial hardship), and something that you must pay for to overcome disability-related barriers.

- **Can I apply for a grant to cover my tuition fees?**
 - We do not normally fund costs that are applicable to all students regardless of disability. Tuition fees fall into this category. It is only in exceptional circumstances that a grant could be provided to help with the cost of course tuition fees. To apply for help with fees you must be able to provide evidence that this request is directly related to your experience of disability e.g. you may have recently become disabled, or your condition or impairment has worsened and as a result you need to retrain for a new career path. If you are not sure about your eligibility for a fee award, we recommend you talk to us before completing an application.

- **DSA have agreed to fund me a laptop but their rules state I must pay the first £200 in line with the expectation that this is a necessary cost for all students. Can I apply for a grant to cover the first £200 that I am expected to pay?**
 - No, our position follows that of the DSA. We cannot award a grant for the first £200 towards the cost of a DSA funded laptop.

- **DSA have agreed to fund me a laptop. Can I apply for a grant to cover the cost of upgrading it to a mac?**
 - Typically no, we will not award grants to upgrade DSA awarded equipment, unless you provide clear evidence that your studies will be impeded without it. Personal preference is not sufficient grounds for an application.

- **Can I apply for a grant to cover my daily expenses/ cost of living/ mortgage/ utility bills/ food/ financial hardship?**
 - No, the disability-related study cost grant is intended only for the purpose of alleviating disability-related costs associated with your studies. Although we are sympathetic to financial hardship, this is not part of the remit for the disability-related study cost grant.

- **Can I apply for a grant to cover my medical needs?**
 - No, the disability-related study cost grant is intended only for the purpose of alleviating disability-related costs, related to studying. This does not include general costs related to your medical treatment (including therapy), assessments or travel to medical appointments.

- **Can I apply for a grant to cover the care needs of my dependents (e.g. child/ children/ relatives)?**
 - o No, you cannot apply for general costs related to the care of your dependents/ relatives, such as medical treatment, assessments, travel to medical appointments, daycare or nursery fees etc.

Filling in the application

- **How do I apply for a disability-related study cost grant?**
 - o Applications open at the end of April 2023. Please check our [website](#) for updated information. Please read the guidance document before starting your application. A link to the application portal will be visible once applications open at the end of April 2023.

- **Can you support me to complete my application? Can you help me fill in the application form? I cannot access the application form or supporting documents?**
 - o If you are not able to access the application form or any of the guidance documents we have posted online, please contact us on info@snowdontrust.org. We will do our best to provide accessible material and submissions.
 - o We will do our best to accommodate alternative methods of communication for accessibility purposes. Please let us know if you cannot communicate with us via email.
 - o You can ask a carer/ family member/ support worker etc. to make an application on your behalf. They can note at the end of the application form in the panel named “I - Contact preferences” their own contact details if you prefer that we contact them, rather than you, directly. The application should be made out in the name of the student applying for the grant.
 - o We are not able to advise any applicant in answering questions relating to your experience or motives for applying on the application form. We must ensure fairness and equal support to all applicants and be mindful of conflict of interest.
 - o We welcome constructive feedback on ways we could improve the support we offer.

- **I cannot access the application portal. Can you accept alternative submissions?**
 - If there is an accessibility issue which means you are not able to use our online application portal, please contact us on info@snowdontrust.org or 01403 732899 to discuss alternative possibilities. We will accommodate alternative submissions as far as possible.

Responses and timings

- **I sent you an email. When will I hear back? When will you reply to my enquiry?**
 - We aim to reply to you within five working days. Please be patient, and do not send us a follow up email until five working days have passed. This will only create a larger volume of emails for us to deal with. Thank you for your understanding.
- **Can I have personalised feedback on my application?**
 - We will always inform you of the outcome of your application. However, due to the high number of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.
- **When will I hear if my application was successful?**
 - The Selection Panel will meet three times this year, with the following schedule:
 - Applications submitted by the end of May 2023 will be assessed at the July 2023 Selection Panel meeting, allowing for arrangements to be in place for the start of term in September 2023. You will be informed by the last day of July.*
 - Applications submitted by early September 2023 will be assessed in the October 2023 Selection Panel meeting. You will be informed by the last day of October.*

- Applications submitted by January 2024 will be assessed in the March 2024 Selection Panel meeting. You will be informed by the last day of March.*

*Please note, these dates are given as guidance, and we will confirm exact dates nearer the time. We are trialling this new schedule of Selection Panel meetings to provide more opportunities to apply for funding throughout the year.

General questions

- **How much competition is there? What are my chances of receiving an award?**
 - Typically we receive more applications than we can afford to fund.
 - Eligible applications will be assessed by our Selection Panel made up of experts in the field of disability, former grant awardees, and those with lived experience of disability, who will make decisions about your application and offer advice and guidance where appropriate. Following the Selection Panel meeting, all applicants will be informed of the outcome. Whilst we aim to support as many eligible applications as possible, we have limited resources. If we are unable to help you, where possible, we will signpost you to alternative sources of support and advice.
- **Do I have to pay the grant (money) back?**
 - No, you do not need to re-pay any of the award The Snowdon Trust gives you.
- **What is the difference between the Snowdon Trust disability-related study cost grant and the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship programmes?**
 - Snowdon Trust disability-related study cost grants typically contribute towards study costs that are an additional cost to Disabled Students, but which have not been covered or fully covered by statutory funding. The maximum grant you can apply for is £5,000. The applicant must provide evidence of their additional study related costs, and proof that they have not been able to source the funding from elsewhere. This is a grant to alleviate the impact of additional disability-related expenses.

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- The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship has been designed to identify and accelerate exceptional Disabled Students through higher education, creating the influencers of the future. Successful recipients will receive a total of up to £30,000 divided between a contribution towards fees (up to £15,000) and an allowance /maintenance stipend (£15,000 payable in termly instalments of £5,000 for a one-year course, or £2,500 for a two-year course). This is a scholarship which champions excellence and future potential.

- **Can I apply for both a Snowdon Trust disability-related study cost grant and the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship programmes?**
 - If you meet the eligibility criteria for the separate programmes, you can apply for both programmes. An applicant will not normally be awarded more than three disability-related study cost grants. Previous Master's Scholarship winners are not eligible to reapply for another Master's Scholarship award. Please note that the Master's Scholarship programme has now closed for applications for 2023/24.