



PLANNING FOR LIFE AFTER 16

Higher Education - sources of further information

General links

Directgov, a website run by the government, has a whole section on *University and higher education* which contains lots of information, including a link to a guide for parents. The subsection on *Student finance* allows you to apply online and includes several, mostly quite accessible, booklets, which can be downloaded. The *Disabled people* section contains information about the DSA and also has a link to the leaflet *Bridging the gap: a guide to Disabled Students' Allowances in higher education*: www.direct.gov.uk

The Student Loans Company handles complaints about **Student Finance**. There is a direct link to their complaints procedure: www.slc.co.uk.

The Office of the Independent Adjudicator for Higher Education (OIA) is an independent body set up to review student complaints: www.oiahe.org.uk.

Disability specific links

The Equality and Human Rights Commission has a range of information and publications about the law on disability discrimination. It also has a helpline: **0845 604 6610**: www.equalityhumanrights.com

Skill, The National Bureau for Students with Disabilities, was forced to close recently. However, their website can still be accessed: www.skill.org.uk

The Disability Alliance has recently been given funding to take over some of **Skill's** functions. This includes publishing a range of booklets about higher education and related issues and an online guide for young people about the decisions they face at 16 and beyond. They also have a helpline: **0800 328 5050** open Tuesday 11.30-1.30 and Thursday 1.30-3.30 and queries can be emailed: www.disabilityalliance.org/skill.htm

The National Network of Assessment Centres (UK) facilitates access for disabled people to education, training, employment and personal development in the post 16 sector. Centres in the network often carry out assessments for the DSA:

www.nnac.org

The National Autistic Society has some information about higher education for people with autistic spectrum disorders. Go to *Information for parents* and then *Education*. It also runs the Autism Helpline: **0800 8800 4104** open Monday - Friday 10.00 am - 4.00 pm: www.autism.org.uk

The Den, a website for young people with autistic spectrum disorders run by the **Autism Education Trust**, features a range of information mostly in the form of FAQs with answers on video. A number of the topics covered may be relevant to young people going to university: www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/theden.

The Dyscovery Centre in Wales runs a transition website for young people growing up with developmental co-ordination disorder and other specific learning difficulties, and their families. It has lots of downloads and other information useful for young people thinking of going to university and living away from home for the first time: www.spldtransitions.co.uk

While some of the information is specific to Wales, most applies throughout the UK.

Hull University Disability Services has a number of *Dyslexia Resources*, downloads on various aspects of study and life skills which many students might find helpful: www2.hull.ac.uk/student/disability.aspx (click on *Specific Learning Difficulties*)

The Transition Information Network is an alliance of organisations and individuals working together to improve the experience of disabled young people's transition to adulthood. They run a website for parents, carers and people who work with young people with disabilities. It includes a section on *Education*, which contains links to a number of other sources of information. There is also a section for young people, which includes pages on going to university:

www.transitioninfonetwork.org.uk

[Links to websites for young people](#)

The Site, a website for young people run by YouthNet UK, includes information about applying to university, study skills and life as a student: **www.theSite.org**

Brightside is a charity which provides accessible information and encouragement aimed primarily at disadvantaged young people considering higher education. Their website has a lot of information about study skills and independent living:

www.thebrightsidetrust.org

[Afacic publications and other services](#)

School Visits – Questions to Ask, includes many questions that may also be relevant to universities or other colleges providing higher education courses, free download

Young Person's Identity Card: 0.50p

Creating Learning and Communication Friendly Environments for Young People, free download for members or £1.00

Afacic Helpline

Open 10.30 - 2.30, Monday - Friday, tel.: **0300 666 9410** or **0207 490 9420**