

University of Essex Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) Laptop Reimbursement Fund 2026-27

The University offers a £200 reimbursement towards the cost of digital equipment for students whose disability means that they need one for study and who are from a low household income. This is a reimbursement scheme; payment will not be given in advance of any purchase.

Terms and conditions

Eligibility

- You are a current, full-time or part-time **registered** student at the University of Essex
- You have been assessed as a Home fee-paying student and are ordinarily resident in the UK (overseas fee-paying students are not eligible)
- Applicants should have undertaken a Study Needs Assessment (SNA) for which they haven't claimed a laptop reimbursement previously.
- Applicants must have had equipment recommended in the DSA approval and recommendation letter and purchased this equipment via the recommended supplier, before applying for this award.
- Applicants have an annual household income of up to £25,000 as assessed by Student Finance or other UK student funding provider.
- The fund is offered in the form of a one off non-repayable payment. This fund can be held in conjunction with other University awards.

What if my household income is above £25,000 but I am unable to pay?

If your household income is above £25,000 you can apply to the main Hardship Fund. Further details can be found [here](#).

Students who are not eligible

The following applicants are NOT eligible for the DSA Laptop Award regardless of meeting the above criteria:

- Students who have been assessed as an overseas fee-paying student
- Students who are not in attendance and on an assessment only programme.
- Students whose course is sponsored by an employer.
- Students on a distance learning programme.
- Students on unsubstantial part-time or short courses.
- Students who are studying through a University of Essex Partner (e.g. Kaplan, University of Essex Online, Tavistock, etc.).
- Students on Higher/Degree Apprenticeship courses.

Evidence

The following evidence must be provided as part of the application for the fund:

- Proof of purchase such as the invoice/receipt of payment for the laptop
- Evidence of DSA-eligibility and computing equipment recommendations in the form of the DSA approval and recommendation letter.
- Student Finance England notification letter or evidence of customer reference number
- If studying a postgraduate qualification, evidence of Household Income will be required. This may be a P60 for the 2025-26 tax year, a Statement of Earnings from HMRC or equivalent evidence from the home country.

If household income was zero or if the student has an emergency tax code (e.g. ending in M1, W1, or T), a Statement of Earnings should be submitted instead of a P60 (unless claiming a means tested benefits).

If any of the above evidence cannot be provided, an explanation for the reason for this should be provided on the application form.

How to apply

The deadline to apply for the fund for 2026-27 is 20 August 2027.

1. Ensure the eligibility criteria applies.
2. Review the guidance notes
3. Register/log on to the [Essex Aspire application](#) system
4. Select 'Disabled Student's Allowance DSA Reimbursement Fund'
5. Submit the application form and evidence

Applications will not be assessed until all evidence has been provided.

Payment arrangements

- Payments will be made through Essex Aspire, the University's secure payment platform.
- If eligible, students will receive a £200 reimbursement towards the cost of a laptop.
- Applications will be assessed and payment will be made to eligible students within 7 working days of the assessment outcome.

Within 48 hours of receiving your outcome, you will receive an email from student.info@essex-aspire.co.uk with details on how to register an Essex Aspire Account (if you're not already registered) and how to access your award. Once registered, your award will be available immediately.

If you have not claimed your reimbursement by Friday 23rd July 2027, you will no longer be eligible for the reimbursement, and you will not receive payment for the 2026-27 academic year.

Resolution of disputes

Acceptance of this award constitutes acceptance of these terms and conditions. Registered students should contact the [Funding Team](#) in the first instance for guidance regarding this award. In cases not covered by the above terms and conditions, or where a student claims exceptional circumstances, or disputes a decision not to make payments due under an award, final appeals on decisions regarding eligibility must be made via the [Student Complaints process](#). The Academic Registrar or their nominee will review the case and his/her decision will be final.

These terms and conditions apply to the academic year 2026-27. The University of Essex reserves the right to update these terms and conditions as necessary.