DSA Contribution Fund 2026/27

Fund Summary:

Under current regulations for the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA), students are required to contribute the first £200 towards any computing equipment which is recommended in their DSA needs assessment report.

The University recognises that, for some students, this is a barrier to them accessing the DSA, which means that they do not then benefit from the support which has been recommended. In recognition of this, the University has created a fund to which eligible students can apply.

Please note the £200 funding award is paid directly to the equipment supplier as set out in the DSA2 letter and is not reimbursed to the student.

Eligibility:

Students are eligible to apply:

- if they are not eligible for the Kent Financial Support Package (KFSP), but do meet the household income threshold eligibility criteria.
- if they are eligible for the KFSP because they meet all of the required eligibility criteria as if they were not in receipt of DSA.

Students are NOT eligible to apply:

If they are in receipt of the Kent Financial Support Package (KFSP) due to meeting the eligibility criteria "The student is in receipt of Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)" and not the postcode eligibility criteria. These students are expected to use £200 from their KFSP award to pay the student contribution.

The fund is open to registered students in the following stages:

Foundation Year
UG Stages 1 & 2
UG Stage 3 (applications only in terms 1 & 2)
PG T (applications only in terms 1, 2 & 3)
PG R

Evidence

- Students need to be in receipt of a **DSA2 letter** from Student Finance England, in which equipment recommendations are detailed and the requirement for a £200 student contribution is explained.

- The DSA Contribution Fund is **means tested** and we therefore ask Foundation/UG students for a copy of their **Letter of Entitlement** from Student Finance, to confirm their Maintenance Loan annual amount.

Assessing your application

- We use the annual household income threshold of £35,000 and under, as assessed by Student Finance England (SFE) for the 2026 / 2027 academic year, to assist us in making a decision.
- We ask all students to provide a short supporting statement explaining **why they are not able to fund the £200 contribution themselves**. This should include a brief explanation of how making this payment would impact their ability to pay for essential day to day living costs. We will take this statement into consideration when assessing an application.

Please note that the available funds are limited and awards cannot be made after the funds have been exhausted.