

Staffordshire University - Student Enabling Centre

Understanding Support Arrangements on SURF Programmes-Disabled Students

If you are a disabled student on a SURF programme you may be confused over who has responsibility for arranging your support. It's important to us that you are clear about this so we have attached to this document a Guide that was distributed to your College earlier in the year. This Guide will help to show you how the College should help you to organise your support and contains vital information relating to the provision of Disabled Students' Allowances. If you are disabled and on an eligible course you may be entitled to apply for these allowances. If you aren't sure whether you are disabled or not, then check with your College. They'll be able to work with you on this.

We would strongly urge you to act quickly to get your support arranged as the process of applying for Disabled Students' Allowances is quite long-winded. Further information can be gained from the booklet, "Bridging the Gap" which is available from your College or by following this link:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/DisabledPeople/EducationAndTraining/HigherEducation/DG_10034898

If you aren't eligible for Disabled Students' Allowances, the College still has a legal duty to make "reasonable adjustments" on your behalf. Again, it is critical that you discuss this with your College at the earliest opportunity.

From time to time, things do not go right with the provision of support. It is important that you discuss any problems with your College in the first instance and this would be normally done through the Additional or Learner Support Service (different Colleges call their Service different things).

If you cannot resolve your issues at College level then by all means contact the Disabled Student Centres in the University and we'll do all that we can to help. It is the University's responsibility to ensure that you are not discriminated against while you are on a SURF programme.

You can contact us as follows:

Tel: 01782 294977

e-mail: disability@staffs.ac.uk