

*Reach your true potential...*



# **Disability Support Services**

**DSA - Student Edition**



**[www.focuscoaching.org.uk](http://www.focuscoaching.org.uk)**

**Focus Coaching & Training**

**Tel: 0116 215 5559**

**Email: [dsa@focuscoaching.org.uk](mailto:dsa@focuscoaching.org.uk)**

### ***About our support services:***

The Support sessions will provide a bespoke approach to addressing your personal difficulties (in relation to your disability), with respect to your academic work by focusing on combining study skills in combination with the software/technologies you may have previously been provided with. The study skills aspect will target **your** specific needs for your subject and level of study, while working together to develop innovative self-support strategies, delivered in a personal one-to-one coaching approach.

We are also able to provide Assistive Technology Training (ATT) in addition to any previous training provided, or as a top-up for any sessions you were unable to attend (lost sessions) or key features you were unable to grasp because of the overwhelming volume of information.

### ***Our Teams Diverse Background:***

- Experience of disabilities first-hand and through working and supporting disabled clients (all ages).
- Specialist support knowledge developed for supporting Dyslexia, Asperger's and ADHD.
- Academic experience includes teaching/lecturing and assessing at FE/HE level, through to Primary Education; academic qualifications including CertEd, PGCE & Masters degree level.
- Over 3 year's delivery of 1-to-1 ATT to students from across the United Kingdom.
- Specialist understanding of hardware and software (Electronics engineering professional).
- Up-to-date and current knowledge of all current Assistive Technology software packages and their full implementation.
- Over 4 year's delivery of personal one-to-one life coaching, confidence building and bespoke training.
- Careers and industrial support guidance (making the support relevant to students' course sectors).

### ***Our Aim:***

To provide practical and relevant support required to address the needs of the individual professional/student.

### ***Our Objective:***

Our objective, through our specialist support sessions, is to alleviate your current difficulties (academic/personal) whilst preparing you to face future difficulties through optimising the full combined benefits already provided through your DSA support, around your academic study/organisational requirements.

**If you require further clarification of the support available, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.**

## *Approach:*

*Q: I would like Focus Coaching to provide additional support, what must I do?*

If you are currently receiving study support but you feel the allocated hours or type of support is not addressing your full needs or your allocated support has ended, you can request additional support (this includes **Assistive Technology Training**).

Simply contact Focus Coaching & Training and we can help guide and support you through this process. ☎: 0116 215 5559 or ✉: [dsa@focuscoaching.org.uk](mailto:dsa@focuscoaching.org.uk)

*Q: I would like Focus Coaching to provide my current support what must I do?*

The support that has been sanctioned by Student Finance England (SFE) is "**your**" personal support package. If the support you are receiving is not suiting your particular needs, you are well within your rights to change your support provider at any time.

DSA is for your personal support and has been agreed between Student Finance England and yourself.

Your DSA has been provided to ensure you can reach your full academic potential despite having a disability or impairment.

*It is a misconception that you must seek approval from your universities/college's own Disability Department when seeking a change of DSA Funded support. SFE stress the importance of **student choice** when seeking appropriate support for the individual student's needs. Only you will know if your support is of benefit.*

However, we suggest that you speak to your current support provider if you have issues with your support or the individual providing your support. This will give your provider the opportunity to address your needs and adjust their current service provision to you.

If this doesn't resolve your issue, or you would simply prefer our approach to supporting your needs, you will need to do the following:

- 1. Inform us at Focus Coaching** of your wishes to transfer provider so we can discuss your needs with you and provide you with a letter to be forwarded to Student Finance England requesting a change of support provider.
- 2. Contact your current provider** to suspend any pre-booked appointments. Also, confirm the number of sessions they have claimed from SFE (if you do not have copies of session plans/timesheets).

3. **Contact Student Finance England** via email, quoting your customer reference number and stating that you would like to change your support provider.

**SFE Email: [dsa\\_team@slc.co.uk](mailto:dsa_team@slc.co.uk).**

4. Once you have received confirmation of approval in writing from SFE, you can contact us directly to make an appointment to commence receiving your support from Focus Coaching & Training.

**A copy of the letter from SFE must be provided prior to your first session.**

If you are worried or confused about any of the process, please contact Focus Coaching and Training and we will help guide you through this process.

*Q: I do not feel that the Assistive Technology that I was provided with was the most appropriate for my needs. Can Focus Coaching provide further software or equipment?*

No. Focus Coaching and Training is not an equipment provider. However, if we feel that you are lacking a particular piece of software or equipment that would seriously compensate for a disability related disadvantage, our Assistive Technology specialist could assess your needs and provide a letter of recommendation that you could send to SFE and your Assessments of Needs (AON) assessor, asking if the items could be added to your existing claim.

Your assessor makes recommendations on your behalf, but you will appreciate that technology moves at a significant pace these days and it is very difficult for assessors to keep current with the latest developments. Your assessor will have made the best recommendations in their judgement at the time of producing your AON report.

*NB. We are aware of many beneficial technologies and software applications on the market but we will only make recommendations if we consider that your disability requires such a compensatory strategy to allow for a level academic playing field (not to give a greater personal advantage over colleagues).*

**All costs for your support will be paid directly by  
Student Finance England**

