University of Hertfordshire UH

DSA Computer Equipment Fund

Introduction

If you applied for Disabled Students' Allowance and your confirmation of funding letter includes the purchase of a laptop or computer, you can apply to this grant for a non- repayable award of £200 to cover your contribution to the cost of the equipment.

Please be aware that new students will be unable to apply for the DSA Computer Equipment Grant until they have fully enrolled on their course and started their studies with us.

Continuing students can apply at any time during the academic year.

Please note, this fund has a limited budget. Once funds have been exhausted, the fund may be closed outside of the dates stated below, without advanced warning. Therefore, students are encouraged to apply early, as funds will be allocated on a first come, first serve basis.

Eligibility

To apply you **must** meet all the following conditions:

- You are a current registered student at the University of Hertfordshire or partner colleges that are in the UK, including Hertford Regional College, North Hertfordshire College, Oaklands College, West Hertfordshire College and Southgate College.
- You are a full-time or part-time undergraduate student or studying a postgraduate course with undergraduate fees (£9,790)
- You are eligible for UK home fees and ordinarily resident in the UK (overseas and EU students are not eligible)
- You have completed a DSA Assessment and had equipment recommended as a part of your assessment

Other Support

If you do not meet the above eligibility criteria, you may apply to University Financial Assistance Fund (UFAF), the Summer Fund or the Student Support Fund (SSF). All the information for these funds is available on AskHerts on Financial Support page.

Dates and Deadlines

Below are the fund opening dates, however the fund can close at any time and will not reopen, regardless of dates, once the budget is exhausted.

<u>Autumn term:</u>

Monday 26th October 2026 – Friday 11th December 2026 (4:00 pm)

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Spring/summer term:

Monday 11th January 2027 (8:30am) – Friday 14th May 2027 (4:00pm)

How to apply

Step 1– Eligibility

Please confirm that you meet all the criteria listed above.

Step 2– Sign in or register with BlackBullion

To apply please register online via www.Blackbullion.com. Blackbullion is a financial well- being platform which can be used to develop learning of financial topics such as budgeting and investing. Once you have registered using your University of Hertfordshire student email address, click the funding tab where you will see the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) Computer Equipment Grant.

Should you require any assistance with your application, the SFFS team offer one-to-one drop-in sessions. Further information can be found here: https://ask.herts.ac.uk/financial-support-drop-in-sessions.

Step 3 – Course details

You will be asked about details of your course, including:

- Your course name
- Your level of study
- Your mode of study
- Your year of study

Step 4 – Personal details

Please provide your University of Hertfordshire Student ID number, your first and last name and your date of birth.

Step 5- Supporting documents

In this section you will need to upload your supporting evidence.

Each evidence type will give you a description of what you need to upload.

Please note, if the evidence you have supplied is incorrect you will be asked to re-upload this evidence within 5 working days. If you require support with this, the SFFS team offer one-to- one drop-in sessions. More information can be found on Ask Herts.

Step 6 - Review & submit

Please double-check your application as you will be unable to edit it once it has been submitted. You will also need to read the declarations and confirm you agree.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above, please contact the SFFS team at financial-support@herts.ac.uk.

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How you will be assessed

After receiving a completed application form and all required evidence, an assessment and decision will be made within 4 working weeks. You will be informed if the process may take longer. The 4-week period is reset each time an application is returned for correct evidence.

The 4-week turnaround is for decisions on applications, not for payment of an award.

Receiving an award

Successful applicants will be notified via Blackbullion.
Awards will normally be paid through our partner Aspire.
Within 5 working days of receiving the decision notice via BB, successful applicants will receive a separate email from our payment disbursement partner info@herts-Aspire.co.uk. This will be sent to the email address registered on your student record.
You must:
• Follow the instructions in the email using the secure link to set up your Herts Aspire account and provide your bank details.
• Students must ensure their bank details are accurate and respond promptly to Aspire's communication to avoid delays. Aspire or the University accepts no liability if your bank details are incorrect or not up to date.
• Withdraw funds into your bank account by the 14 May 2027 deadline provided.
Payments will be made by BACS transfer into the nominated bank account.
If you experience issues accessing the Aspire platform to register your account, submitting your bank details or withdrawing your funds you will need

Appeals

The decision on your application from this grant are final. There is no right to appeal. However, if you are unhappy with the outcome of your application, please email the team via the following email: financial-support@herts.ac.uk

Re-applying

During your time at the University of Hertfordshire, you can only receive an award from the fund once.

Other Awards

The Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) Computer Equipment Grant can be held in conjunction with other University awards that you may be eligible for.

Document checklist

You will be asked to provide supporting evidence in your application. It is a good idea to get these together before you begin your application.

You must provide the following:

- DSA 2 Letter of Entitlement which includes a recommendation of a computer/laptop or equipment

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Please note that your application will not be assessed until you have provided all necessary evidence.

Note: These terms and conditions are valid for the 2026/27 academic year.