University Centre Leeds

Important Information for DSA Study Needs Assessors

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DSA Non-Medical Helper Support

(UC Leeds NMH Supplier Information)

University Centre Leeds employ an in-house Mentoring team for the Mental Health (SM:MH) branch of the DSA NMH matrix framework, with in-person and online modes of delivery offered to all of our students who are given UC Leeds as their recommended supplier on their DSA Award Letter (DSA2).

Our Mentoring team is offered by highly skilled professionals trained to deliver support students allocated to UC Leeds by DSA who have a range of mental health conditions, as well as many more conditions that present disability-related barriers to education. Our Mentors offer a wide-range of ongoing engagement support DSA-allocated students, including (but not limited to); intervention techniques, coping strategy building, the fostering of DSA/other assistive technologies, support with planning, organisation, and much more.

Our Mentoring services are listed to provide SM:MH on the DSA-approved SLC NMH register at the highly competitive rate of £56 per hour, with both in-person and online delivery available based on each student's preference. We are also on the unofficial Association of NMH Providers list of DSA NMH suppliers for the same service and delivery methods. However, please note that our services only show on the Association of NMH Providers' list when searching for **University Centre Leeds** on their website, and do not show when searching using our post code. When contacted about this, the private company administering this list (who also act as a DSA NMH supplier themselves) confirmed that this is due to a company decision not to display in-house HEP NMH services when Needs Assessors search by post code.

Complete Course Information

Full information is on our website covering all of the courses offered on the following links:

- Undergraduate - https://ucleeds.ac.uk/courses/undergraduate-courses/
- Postgraduate - https://ucleeds.ac.uk/courses/postgraduate-courses/

Disabled Learners at UC Leeds

Students with any disability, neurodiversity, mental health condition and/or long-term health condition (lasting, or likely to last 12 months or more) are likely to have specific, individual disability-related barriers that could affect their engagement with their studies across all pathways. Students often require support for difficulties with (but not limited to):

- working memory
- academic work
- coordination
- focus/attention
- sensory processing/stimuli
- processing speed
- planning/organisational skills
- mental wellbeing difficulties

UC Leeds provides comprehensive support plans containing reasonable adjustments to students who declare their difficulties in the *My Disability Support* section on their My Portal login, with approximately one third of our entire student population disclosing and gaining support for their disabilities. Further information about the support available at UC Leeds is on our website: https://ucleeds.ac.uk/student-support/disability-support

UC Leeds Facilities and Systems

UC Leeds has a programme of continuous investment in high-end facilities for all of our students to work with. Office 365 and Google logins are given to all students upon enrolment, to assist them to create and store work for academic submissions, including written work and presentation materials. The Disability Support Team encourage students to access the built-in Office 365 accessibility tools, which often helps them if they have not had access to more comprehensive assistive technology that DSA offers from the start of their HE educational experience. We have a large number of class-leading PCs and Apple Silicon Macs that students

should access throughout their studies which are available for students to use when teaching is not taking place during the daytime and in the evenings during weekdays, alongside during the daytime at weekends throughout term-time. All students are expected to take advantage of the in-house, professional-level hardware and software throughout their studies in order to complete their courses when required. The aforementioned facilities are provided for students to use to ensure that individual students do not require a similar level of professional specification hardware and software suites to complete their courses. It is not possible for UC Leeds to give financial assistance to students for the initial £200 fee that Student Finance England and Wales request when recommending DSA-funded Windows-based laptops for the DSA assistive technology package to be used, nor with any optional additional costs that students may choose to incur if they decide to upgrade to a higher specification PC or Apple Mac platform. As above, students are expected to use the professional-level facilities to complete course content.

Accommodation Information

UC Leeds do not receive income or deal with any monies relating to student contracts with student providers of accommodation, such as Unite or Unipol. Tenancy agreements are contracts between the student and the accommodation provider directly. Therefore, the legal and financial responsibilities for their tenancy agreements lie solely with those parties.

Inclusive Practice at UC Leeds

Information and lecture notes are made available to students at least 24 hours in advance of teaching delivery using **Blackboard**, our online Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) at UC Leeds. Without recorded lectures in place, it is highly useful for our students with disabilities to have access to a license for Glean from DSA where suitable, alongside a DSA-funded digital recording device with a built-in two-way microphone, as these aspects help our students to access their teaching fully both at the time, as well as to recap the materials after their lectures. Students can access their course reading lists through **Blackboard** once they have enrolled.

Contact information

The Disability Support Team work all year round and are located at UC Leeds, Mabgate building on the 3rd floor. DSA Study Needs Assessors can ask the Disability Support Team any questions that they have, or request a call with a member of the team, by emailing disability@UCLeeds.ac.uk.