

Further education

College

New College Lanarkshire offer supported learning courses, and these may be suitable for you to help you to further develop your skills. You may have an opportunity to attend a college link programme one day a week while in 6th year, supported by your school staff. This is a good opportunity for you to get used to a different environment and try out the things that you might choose to do at college. This may involve art, pottery, cooking or music. At the end of sixth year, you may be offered a place on a supported course if this is considered suitable and if you enjoyed the link placement. This may be for two or three days a week. If the college thinks that you will need support to attend, they will let you know this. If this is the case, you should discuss this with your social worker or transition worker. This support will be included in your support plan to be funded by Social Work.

Your son/daughter may also be able to access mainstream college, and link into the Support for Learning in the college campus. Skills Development Scotland link with each young person in transition to explore these options and can assist with the necessary college applications.

The New College website is:

<http://www.nclanarkshire.ac.uk/>

Support to attend further education and funding available

The Scottish Government, together with LEAD Scotland, has produced guides for people with additional support needs attending further education courses about

how to ensure that any support needed is available, and about help available to meet the costs of learning and training. There are two guides:

- 1) Supporting You at College: A guide for people with additional support needs in Scotland's colleges.

<https://www.webarchive.org.uk/wayback/archive/3000/https://www.gov.scot/Resource/0050/00505197.pdf>

The "Supporting You at College" guide includes useful information about your rights as a disabled learner, and about how to make sure that your support needs are understood and met:

SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS

What kind of support is available in college?

There are lots of different kinds of support available in colleges. For example, some students have support such as:

- sign language interpreters.
- one-to-one help in the classroom.
- accessible computer equipment.
- help with going to the toilet.
- help at lunch breaks.
- a flexible timetable or extra time in exams.
- and many more support measures.

These are only some examples. The support you get will depend on your individual support needs which the college will assess before you start.

The different kinds of support you might get at college are provided by a range of different organisations including the college itself, social work departments, the NHS, or maybe even voluntary organisations. The type of support you might get and who provides it will depend on whether you need help with learning, personal or health care, or other needs such as transport.

Sometimes the support will be the same as you have had at school, and sometimes it will be different. If you are taking a mainstream course, the classes will be made up of a large number of students, and additional support will be available for any student who needs it to help them take part in the class. Depending on what kind of support you need, other students in the class do not need to know that you are receiving additional support if you would rather keep this private.

If you are taking a programme which is specifically designed for students with additional support needs, support will be provided to all students on the programme. As well as support from college staff, you might also receive support from other people such as personal assistants to help with your personal care needs.

How do I find out what support I need?

To find out about the support you might need, you should first speak to the support staff in the college. Every college has at least one member of staff who advises students who need additional support. They can talk to you about your course, the support you have used before and any new support that might be available. They will tell you how the college can help you. They may ask you to have an assessment of your needs at the college, or at a separate Access Centre, to make sure you get the support you need to help you on your course. These

assessments will be 'needs-led', which means they will consider what your individual needs are, rather than assuming your needs are the same as other people with the same impairment or people facing similar barriers.

If you are disabled, you can ask your local social work department for an assessment of your need for care services, including any healthcare or social care needs that you need while at college. The care services that are to be provided will then be agreed and noted in a care plan, or you may already have a care plan in place.

What are my rights as a disabled learner?

If you have a disability, you have certain rights under the law. Your college also has duties under the law to help you.

The Equality Act is a law that aims to protect disabled people. This Act says that colleges must provide extra support to ensure that disabled people are not disadvantaged compared to non-disabled students. These are known as 'reasonable adjustments', which means the college will need to provide help or make adjustments if they are thought to be reasonable things to do. This might include, things like:

- providing course materials in electronic formats if you are visually impaired.
- providing ramps to help wheelchair users access buildings.
- writing things in Easy Read if you have a learning difficulty.
- providing car parking spaces for people who use a wheelchair or have difficulty walking.

The college can't expect you to pay for the cost of these adjustments, and can't refuse to provide them unless they have a genuine reason for doing so.

Who provides support in college?

A number of different organisations provide support in college. As there are so many different organisations, you may be unsure about who to contact. Here is a summary of who does what:

- **Educational needs:** colleges are responsible for providing educational support. This might include learning materials in alternative formats, a sign language interpreter, computer software, or a scribe for example. If you are taking a higher education course at college (such as an HNC or an HND), you may receive an allowance called the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) which can be used to pay for some of your educational support. However, it is important to remember that even if you receive DSA, there are some kinds of support which the college should be providing as part of its duties to make reasonable adjustments for disabled students (see above).
- **Personal care support:** if you have been assessed by your local authority as needing personal care support, then it will be the local authority's responsibility to provide this support at college. This is usually arranged through the social work department. This might include help going to the toilet, someone to help you travel to the college, or help to prepare or eat a meal. Your local social work department will be able to tell you about the different kind of support available for your personal care needs, including services, equipment and any adaptations you might need to your home.
- **Healthcare needs:** your needs assessment by the local authority may identify a need for healthcare support in addition to your personal care support. If so, your local NHS board will be responsible for providing that support, such as

someone to give you medication at college or to programme your communication devices.

- **Careers advice:** your school careers adviser or a Skills Development Scotland adviser can help you work out which education, training or employment option suits you best. They may also be able to refer you to a Key Worker who can help you deal with different agencies during your transition to college.

- **Support during the transition to college:** you may find that you need help when you are moving from school to college, especially if you have to deal with various different agencies. Skills Development Scotland can help you to coordinate support from different agencies and make sure that the support you need is put in place. Your school/education authority will also be able to support you before and during the transition to college.

- **Other support needs:** voluntary organisations, such as LEAD Scotland, might provide other kinds of support such as, learning new skills to help you get ready for college, helping to build your confidence, help using assistive technology, or help to provide work experience.

Although different organisations provide support, they should be working together to ensure that the support you need is provided in college.

What if I need to take medication at college?

If you need to take medication during your college day then the college must make sure that you are able to do so and not placed at a disadvantage. The college may also ask you to provide them with a note of your medication requirements and details of the procedures to be followed in case of an emergency. It is important the college knows about your needs for medication.

Can I bring my own support worker / personal assistant?

You may have had the same support worker / personal assistant (to help with your personal care needs) throughout your time at school, who you would like to bring with you when you go to college.

Each college has different arrangements for support workers within the college. Some employ people to provide support, while others have agreements that the local authority or another organisation provide care within the college. Other colleges might have different arrangements. It is therefore best to speak with the college to find out what arrangements they have in relation to support workers / personal assistants and ask if it is suitable to bring your own assistant with you when you go to college.”

2) Helping you meet the costs of learning and training (Your guide to funding: 2018/2019)

<https://www.gov.scot/binaries/content/documents/govscot/publications/advice-and-guidance/2018/07/costs-of-learning-student-funding-guide-2018-to-2019/documents/13b30382-22c2-40bc-82a1-f7706e07be7f/13b30382-22c2-40bc-82a1-f7706e07be7f/govscot%3Adocument>

“This guidance includes a wide range of information about funding available to you to meet extra costs you may have as a disabled student. It includes the following useful information:

Travel costs

The following groups of students may be eligible for some additional help towards some of their travel costs:

- Those doing an Allied Health Profession degree, a nursing diploma or nursing degree can get help with their placement travel expenses only.
- Disabled students who cannot use public transport.
- Students doing a compulsory period of study abroad can claim for reimbursement of their air fares and medical insurance only.

Please contact the Student Awards Agency Scotland on 0300 555 0505 or visit www.saas.gov.uk for more information.

Help for disabled students

Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)

If you have to pay extra costs while you are studying because of your disability, you can apply for a Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) for extra support.

DSA is made up of the following three allowances.

- **The Basic Allowance** is an allowance of up to £1,725 a year that you may claim towards general costs such as audio tapes, Braille paper, radio aids, medically certified special dietary needs and small items of equipment.
- **Special Equipment Allowance** is an allowance of up to £5,160 to help you buy things like major items of equipment (for example, a computer, laptop or a portable loop). The most you can get is set when you make your initial claim and the amount you receive is for the whole of your course, not for each year.

- **Non-Medical Personal Help** is an allowance of up to £20,520 a year for non-medical personal help (for example, for a reader if you are blind, or for someone to take notes for you).

You may also be able to get help towards your travel costs if you cannot use public transport and have to pay extra costs as a result of your disability.

For more information on the help that is available for disabled learners visit <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Education/UniversitiesColleges/16640/learnerfunding>

Extra help

Discretionary Funds

If you are having particular financial difficulties you can apply for help from your college or university Discretionary Fund. These funds are specifically to help students who have financial difficulties. You don't have to wait until you are on the course to apply for help from this fund. Your college or university is responsible for deciding who can have help from its Discretionary Fund and how much they can have. You must have taken out your full student loan entitlement before you can receive this help."

"Help for disabled students on a postgraduate course

If you are a postgraduate student, you may also be eligible for the Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) (see page 21), as long as you are not receiving support from a Research Council or the Scottish Social Services Council, who can provide similar support to the DSA. The amount of basic allowance you receive and any allowance for your non-medical helpers will be in line with the time you spend

studying. For example, if you are studying 50% of an eligible full-time Higher Education qualification, you will be able to claim 50% of these allowances.

More information on can be found

at http://www.saas.gov.uk/full_time/pg/index.htm"

All information provided by the North Lanarkshire Council Transition team.