

Transition to adulthood webinars: Higher education script

Slide 1

Hello and welcome to the higher education session of the Autism and transition to adulthood webinars. These webinars are brought to you by the Greater Manchester Autism Consortium part of The National Autistic society.

Slide 2

Disability, reasonable adjustments and the Equality Act

- The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as being when a person,

“ (has) a physical or mental impairment which has a long term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

- ‘Mental impairments’ include autism
- The Act protects students, prospective students and, in limited circumstances, former students from discrimination in further and higher education (and all public services).

Slide 3

What is covered by the Equality Act?

- An FE or HE education provider must not discriminate against a disabled student in relation to:
 - admissions
 - how education is provided
 - exclusion
 - any other disadvantage, denial of opportunity or choice.

Slide 4

How education is provided includes...

- Teaching (but NOT the content of a course)
- assessments and exams
- facilities, including lecture halls, libraries and IT
- leisure, recreation, entertainment and sports facilities
- physical environment
- disciplinary procedures.

Slide 5

Applying for University

- Explain that you're autistic on the UCAS application form and tell the university Disability Officer, as soon as possible. You will need to provide evidence of your diagnosis. Sometimes they will accept an EHC or an EP report as long as it is post year 9 but not always.
- Apply for Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) early. The process can take 14 weeks. See www.gov.uk/studentfinance
- Disabled Student Allowances do not need to be re-paid and are not means tested. Can be for a general allowance, specialist equipment, non-medical helper and/or disability related travel costs.
- You may be eligible for a Special Support Grant of approx. £3000/year as well as a student maintenance loan. (You do not get more money necessarily, but if you get a Special Support Grant it won't reduce the amount of maintenance loan you can claim.)

Slide 6

On this slide you will find some useful links on the topic of higher education

The National Autistic Society

'Stating college or university':

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/transitions/scotland/starting-college-or-university>

Disability discrimination in further and higher education (GB)

<https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/education/resolving-differences/disability-discrimination-in-further-and-higher-ed>

UCAS application:

<https://www.ucas.com/>

Link to information about the disabled student allowance (DSA):

<https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa>

<https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/extra-help>

Link to The Equality Act 2010:

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents>