

## AccessHE Disability Action Forum – pool funded-project proposal

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### What are we proposing?

With input from the Disability action Forum we would like to create an IAG resource toolkit for use in schools and further education colleges, which helps university applicants with a learning difficulty/disability or mental health condition to access Disabled Students Allowance (DSA).

**August 2019 update:** The toolkit will take the form of a student vlog (video blog) and other accessible resources, with possible formats being step-by-step presentational guides, video tutorials and teacher worksheets. The exact content and format the resource toolkit will take will be discussed with Members during the 14 January 2020 Forum meeting and information webinar\*.

The vlog will focus on the barriers that current university students experienced at each stage along their application process, interspersed with input from the DSA Assessor. The vlog will explore and unpick three key issues: 1) disclosing a disability; 2) the ways in which students do/do not identify with the 'disability' label; 3) the fact that many prospective students with a disability do not always recognise the levels of support they need at university.

**\*Expected to take place on Friday 25 October 2019, 11am-12pm, likely via GoToMeeting. Joining instructions will be communicated in due course. To indicate your willingness/intention to attend at this stage, please e-mail [Richard.boffey@londonhigher.ac.uk](mailto:Richard.boffey@londonhigher.ac.uk) and [Tanyel.kazim@londonhigher.ac.uk](mailto:Tanyel.kazim@londonhigher.ac.uk).**

### Why are we doing this?

The DfE has made support for disabled students a key priority area and our project seeks to offer exactly that, complementing existing initiatives such as Ability Net's *Claim It!* Campaign with information for prospective students across London. There is [clear evidence](#) to suggest that take-up of DSA positively impacts on continuation rates, yet the lack of clarity around how to claim it is the most frequently cited barrier to accessing it. This underscores the obvious benefits of developing a resource that simplifies the DSA application process, both for students and for HE providers.

### Who will benefit?

AccessHE Member institutions participating in the Disability Forum and the applicant/student network this Forum engages in London. If the resource is favourably received by students and Member providers, it could be rolled out across England.

### How will we do this?

HEI Members of the AccessHE Disability Forum and affiliates such as AbilityNet, A2B Assessments and other organisations have extensive experience advising prospective students on the DSA. The Forum is therefore well placed to act as a steering group for the project, reviewing and revising working drafts of the resource – which can be produced by AccessHE – as well as providing in-kind support such as video facilities for filming the tutorials. AccessHE's London Programmes and Communications Coordinator, who is co-convenor of the Disability Forum, will oversee the production and design of the full resource toolkit in an operational role.

Production costs would be funded by modest contributions from Member HEIs. Forum Members were presented indicative costings in early 2019 and agreed to the principle of pool-funding. **August 2019 update:** Revised project costs are listed below.

### Revised project costs

Item	Cost	Notes	
AccessHE staff time	£3000	Administrative support with project Drafting of resources for review by Forum	
Vlog costs	£600	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ULaw charge £350 + VAT (£420) for video recording and production</li> <li>• Student travel to ULaw for filming</li> <li>• Financial incentive for participating students (3x£40 Amazon voucher)</li> <li>• Costs of AccessHE partner involvement</li> </ul>	
Resource toolkit costs	£400-900 (depending on resources)	Design agency production costs	
<b>Total</b>	<b>£4000-4500</b>	If 5 participating HEIs	<b>£800min/ £900max</b>
		If 7 participating HEIs	<b>c.£570min/ c.£640max</b>
		If 10 participating HEIs	<b>£400min/ £450max</b>

### Project milestones

<b>July 2019</b>	AccessHE to promote the project via e-bulletins and through social media channels, and seek input from London HEI/schools/SENCo network
<b>25 October 2019</b>	Forum Chair and AccessHE to host information webinar (details in yellow above) for HEI Members interested in pool-funding the resource
<b>November 2019</b>	AccessHE to recruit students for and produce student vlog
<b>December 2019 (prior to UCAS applications closing)</b>	Mini-resource (e.g. a student vlog/webinar) to be launched
<b>January 2019</b>	Disability Forum, supported by AccessHE, to begin work on full resource toolkit, to encompass: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guides</li> <li>• Teacher worksheets</li> <li>• Videos</li> </ul>
<b>March/April 2020</b>	Launch of full resource toolkit
<b>2020-2021</b>	Resource to be evaluation and updated