



The Disability Rights UK newsletter co-edited with and for young people

Stay informed with news and information on your journey through education, training and work

Disability Rights UK helpline for students, apprentices and trainees

Disability Rights UK runs a **Disabled Students Helpline** which offers information and advice to disabled students, apprentices and trainees by phone and email on a range of topics including:

- applying to college, university and apprenticeships
- telling people about your disability
- financial assistance
- adjustments for disabled students and apprentices
- rights in post -16 education and training under the Equality Act 2010
- how to resolve any disagreements.

The helpline supports disabled students, apprentices, parents and carers and professionals supporting disabled students aged over 16 in England.

- Opening hours: 11am-1pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- Telephone: 0330 995 0414
- Email: students@disabilityrightsuk.org

In addition to the helpline, Disability Rights UK also produces a range of free **education factsheets and guides** for disabled students, trainees and apprentices on post 16 education and training. Disability Rights UK's **Into Apprenticeships 2022 guide** deals with common questions such as how to find an apprenticeship, whether the training will be accessible and what support is available in the workplace. There are several inspiring stories written by disabled apprentices about their own experiences and the challenges they have faced. The guide also contains a useful resources section listing further websites, publications and organisations which can help.

Advanced Learner Loans

The Adult Learner Loans application service for 2022/23 was launched by the Student Loans Company on Monday 23 May 2022, for learners wishing to take out an Adult Learner Loan (ALL) to fund their learning from 1 August 2022 onwards. Full guidance is attached. Please note the following key changes:

- The expansion of the Level 3 free courses for Jobs offer as of 1 April to include all adults who meet the definition of 'low wage' or 'unemployed' outlined in the **AEB funding rules 2022 to 2023** who already have a full level 3 or higher achieved prior to 1 April 2021 or who have achieved a short qualification after 1 April 2021.
- As of 2023 any loan remaining 40 years after an individual is due to start making repayments will be written off; previously it was 30 years.

For more information: **Advanced Learning Loans**

Supporting blind and partially sighted customers: Zoom webinars, July 2022



The Thomas Pocklington Trust is a national charity supporting and empowering blind and partially sighted people to live the life they want to lead. The Education Team works with people aged 11 and above, to access and get the most out of their time in education. They support students with all aspects of their life in education, including access to important services like careers advice, to help them achieve their potential.

In response to the recent survey asking for this kind of training, the Thomas Pocklington Trust will be providing prime contractors with access to a webinar which will help them become better informed and feel more confident when working with blind and partially sighted customers.

There are two sessions which will run in early July. These will be identical, so there is no need to attend both sessions. After this presentation, there will be the chance for participants to ask questions and to discuss their own examples and experiences of working with blind and partially sighted customers. If participants have any questions they would like to raise in advance, please email these to:

student.support@pocklington-trust.org.uk

To register for one of the webinars, please follow the links:

Tuesday 5th July

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlufu6trDMrGNeYyO6tfmxyTDvI0gt61w_o

Wednesday 13th July

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEsd-ypqjMpHdbTlbLhvvT5hm4F6-nTZdel>

Your stories



Get Ahead shares the talents and stories of young people. These young people have not only taken initiative whilst in their placement but taken great pride in being involved - and it shows! From gaining new experiences to learning new skills as well as confidence. You can get involved too! Share your experiences and send your story to Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

From Oakwood Court students:

Poppy

Something I have achieved:

Hi I am poppy I love being with family and friends I am a happy positive girl with a fun personality and a good sense of humour. In my spare time I like to play with my dog, listening to music hang out with family and go out with friends.

I like to go to the cinema eat in a restaurant go to concerts and just live life while being at Oakwood Court College

My biggest achievement to date is:

I organised the 1st ever Oakwood Court Pride event happen by doing a Pride march around the college with staff and students.

We all had a really good time. We walked around the whole college with Pride flags in our hand wearing the best outfits with music and to top this off this has now been added into the curriculum for next year so everyone can learn about Pride and be proud.

Work experience:

I go to Exeter for my work experience at Coreus group. I get given tasks to complete from my bosses. I know I have to show up on time to work. I have my own laptop for work and to complete my work on. I mainly plan events and do social media for Coreus group. I have very good communication skills. I did a presentation about my Williams syndrome and how they can help me when I am at work

Roisin

Hi, my name is Roisin. I am a kind and bubbly person.

In my free time I love seeing friends, have time to myself and love playing with my dogs.

I have worked at Devon horse and pony sanctuary, and I got an AQA in animal care.

And now I am doing work experience at a school with little children. I have to help with their work. I play with ages from reception to year 6 and I really like it.

I have done travel training from college to Teignmouth and back to college and done travel training too from college to home to get my independence. I believe that this help me a lot in my confidence.

All of this is big achievement this year. I am so proud of myself, and this is just the start of me achieving more goals in the future.

Supporting young people at exam results time

Its nearly exam results season when young people will be making their decision on what to do next. This includes the very first group of T Level graduates.



To help them to take their next step, the Get the Jump Skills for Life hub **on the National Careers Service has everything they need to know** about all the options available to them, including education advice for young people with special educational needs or a disability.

**National
Careers
Service**

During the exam results period the hub will also have key information on resits, clearing, appeals, and more. Young people can also chat to an expert careers adviser (via the webchat or the exams results helpline on 0800 100 900) for free, impartial support to help them choose the option that's right for them.

Access the Hub: [Get the Jump Skills for Life](#)

Exam Results 101: What you need to know as parents and carers

Exam Results 101

Everything you need to know as parents/carers

National
Careers
Service



Parents and carers of young people expecting their exam results this August are invited to join the National Careers Service for their exam results webinars to learn how to support their children with tips on preparing for the day, advice about choices and careers, information on useful sources and a Q&A.

The schedule of webinars can be found [here](#)

National Skills Fund expansion of Skills Bootcamps and Free Courses for Jobs training offers

Making sure everyone can upskill or retrain so they can get better paid jobs, is a key priority for government. To find out more about how these popular Skills Bootcamps and Free Courses for Jobs training offers are being expanded this year, please go to:

[How we are supporting adults to secure a better job - The Education Hub \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

Thousands of adults have already benefited from these free training offers to help them get on the path to a rewarding career.

Responses received from a consultation held last year regarding these programmes indicated that participants were largely supportive of the range of training courses on offer.

For more information, please go to: [Skills for Life](#)

The Disabled Apprentice Network



The Disabled Apprentices Network (DAN) brings together Disabled apprentices and those who have finished their apprenticeship



The Network is a lively and friendly forum for Disabled apprentices, to share their experiences and to offer views and proposals on what could improve apprenticeships for Disabled people.

Join the Disabled Apprentices Network (DAN)

The Network meets monthly online for an hour. The discussion topics are varied, including barriers to apprenticeships, support and reasonable adjustments, access to information, communication with employers and training providers.

There is always time for Network members to raise their own concerns and priorities.

The Network produces an annual report for National Apprenticeship week. Last year's report is available from the Disability Rights UK's website: **[Disabled Apprentices Network](#)**

If you would like to join the Network or find out more, please contact **rabia.lemahieu@disabilityrightsuk.org**

Disability Rights UK is an organisation led by, run by, and working for Disabled people and runs different projects informed by the lived experience of Disabled people.

DWP update: expansion of training flexibility for Universal Credit (UC) claimants

The government has expanded the additional training flexibility for Universal Credit claimants until April 2023.

Universal Credit claimants in the intensive work search group can attend full-time, work-related training opportunities lasting up to 16 weeks as part of their work search activity. This flexibility has been extended until 28 April 2023.

Universal Credit claimants will need to get agreement from their work coach to ensure this is the right support for them and appropriate for the local labour market.

For further information, please refer to DfE's Free Courses for Jobs information page <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/free-courses-for-jobs>

Discover Uni - new features for prospective students and advisers

Discover Uni is the official source of data, information, and guidance about higher education across the UK. It is focused on helping prospective students to make informed choices about higher education.

Discover Uni includes a new comparison feature where users can save courses of interest and compare up to seven, side by side. They can also apply a personal rating system to help them track the courses they are most interested in applying for.

The tool gives access to information and official statistics about the course taken from the **Unistats course data**, collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The information and data provide an important reference point for prospective students in their research. Those thinking about going to university can find a range of guidance, including **information on what to consider when choosing courses**, information about loans and grants, and how to prepare for university once they have applied and secured a place.

Discover Uni also provides **information for teachers and advisers** and a **downloadable resource**.

If you would like to get in touch about any of the above, please email: discoveruni@officeforstudents.org.uk.



New report from UCAS:

Next steps: What is the experience of disabled students in education?

The report has been written in partnership with Pearson and the Disabled Students' Commission. It explores how disabled students who have applied to university or college this year feel about the support they have received so far, and what they're looking forward to in higher education. You can find a digital copy of the [report, data files and press release here](#).

Key findings include:

- In 2021, over 83,000 students shared a disability in their UCAS application – this has more than doubled over the past ten years showing that students are feeling increasingly comfortable sharing this information. However, disabled people are still under-represented in higher education.
- Only 17% say they have access to inclusive extra-curricular activities at school or college. However, there is excitement about progressing to higher education, with 44% expecting the social aspect of life at university or college to be 'good' or 'excellent'.
- UCAS' analysis of data from last year's admissions cycle shows students with disabilities are 28% more likely to defer, and this increased during the pandemic. The deferral rate for disabled applicants rose from the pre-pandemic 7% in 2019 to 8.2% in 2021 (compared to a 6.4% deferral rate for non-disabled applicants in 2021). The steepest increase was seen for those with social, behavioural or communication impairments (e.g. an autistic spectrum condition).
- Early engagement is key for these students - 56% researched available support before applying, with students commonly looking at the general and educational support available, and facilities and physical adjustments on campus prior to making their application decisions.

For the first time, our research breaks down the application and survey data of disabled applicants by impairment category to understand the key variations and differences by impairment type, and we also look at the intersectionality of other personal characteristics to understand where there are additional barriers and considerations. UCAS is calling for the journey of disabled students into higher education and apprenticeships to be made easier - and start earlier - through the extension of the DWP's Access to Work Adjustment Passports, which currently cover the transition from HE into employment, plus earlier engagement with university and student support, including Disabled Students' Allowances.

Read the report: [Next steps: What is the experience of disabled students in education?](#)

Contact Us



 Email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

 Twitter: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://twitter.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Instagram: [@GetAheadDRUK](https://www.instagram.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 Videos: [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/GetAheadDRUK)

 [Get Ahead webpage](https://www.getahead.org.uk)

 [DR UK website](https://www.dr.uk)

We like to hear from you!

Give us your feedback and contact:

Getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

For a text-only and large-print version of the Get Ahead newsletter:

email: getahead@disabilityrightsuk.org

Access the Get Ahead newsletters and magazines on our [Get Ahead webpage](https://www.getahead.org.uk)

To receive notifications about the Get Ahead publications please sign up [here](#)

Disability Rights UK

We are Disabled people leading change, and the voice of young Disabled people has to be central to that change.

Disability Rights Handbook 2022-23

Pre-order your copy today for
delivery in May 2022!

Provides in-depth,
**comprehensive guidance on the
benefits system, explains how
social care operates around the
UK and includes information
about other services and
resources for disabled people.**

DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK

Edition 47
April 2022 - April 2023

A guide to benefits and services
for all disabled people, their families,
carers and advisers



DISABILITY RIGHTS HANDBOOK UPDATER 2022-2023

- Disability Rights Handbook updates
- Significant recent case law

