



IT ALL
STARTS HERE



Accessible Learning Support
Offer Holder Information Evening

April 2025



QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST

STUDENT WELLBEING
AND ACCESSIBLE
LEARNING

We're Here to Support You



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We support over 3,000 students with a range of access needs, including:

- **Physical & Mobility Needs** – Mobility challenges
- **Sensory Impairments** – Sight or hearing loss
- **Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLDs)** – Dyslexia, Dyspraxia
- **Neurodiversity** – Autism & ADHD.
- **Mental Health Conditions** – Anxiety, depression, PTSD
- **Medical Conditions** – Long-term or fluctuating conditions
- **Awaiting Diagnosis?** – Support is available

We're here to help—whatever your needs.



How We Help

- ✓ **Personalised & Confidential Support** – Advice, guidance and reasonable adjustments
- ✓ **Collaboration with Schools & Services** – Working with academic staff to put support in place.
- ✓ **Guidance on Funded Support & Assessments** – Help with applications and diagnostic assessments.
- ✓ **Ongoing Support & Problem Solving** –to ensure you get the help you need.
- ✓ **Quick Access to Advice** – Visit our [Student Wellbeing & Accessible Learning Drop-In](#) for support.

Your Disability Officer is here to help—[contact us](#) anytime.



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What are reasonable adjustments?

A reasonable adjustment is any measure that helps reduce or remove barriers caused by a disability to ensure fair access to learning.

Examples include:

- **Extra time** for assessments & exams
- **Extended library loans**
- **Advance access** to reading lists & lecture materials
- **Additional support services** (e.g. Notetaker, Scribe, Reader)
- **Exam adjustments** (e.g. rest breaks, extra time)
- **Assistive Technology** to support learning



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Help Us Support You Better!

✓ Complete the [Accessible Learning Support Form](#)

Provide as much detail as possible- this helps us identify and apply reasonable adjustments.

📄 Have Medical Evidence?

If you have medical evidence, please include it. 👉 It's not required, but it helps us tailor support more effectively.

📅 How We Assess Your Support Needs

We review each form carefully. Depending on your needs, we may:

- ◆ Apply adjustments based on the information provided
- ◆ Request additional details
- ◆ Arrange a discussion with a Disability Officer (online or in person) for tailored support.

💬 Need Help?

If you're unsure about any part of the form, our team is happy to guide you. You can reach us here -

accessiblelearning@qub.ac.uk



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How to Get the Support You Need

- **Start Early** – Engage with support services as soon as possible.
- **Apply for funded support (i.e. DSA) early** – The process can take time, so apply as soon as possible.
- **Take Responsibility** – Reach out and complete any necessary steps to access the support available to you.
- **Seek Out Additional Support** – Services such as Accommodation, Careers, and Global Opportunities can help.
- **Communicate with Us** – Let us know if you experience any issues- we're here to help



Getting Support at QUB



✔ Share Your Needs

- Tick the disability option on your UCAS or direct application.
- Scan the QR code to complete our [online form](#)



Assessment & Support Plan

- A Disability Officer will assess your needs.
- An Individual Student Support Agreement (ISSA) will be created and shared with teaching staff.



Ongoing Support

- You can request changes to your ISSA anytime—just contact us.
- Check your emails regularly for updates.



Need Help?

Call **028 9097 5250** or email accessiblelearning@qub.ac.uk.



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STUDENT STORY



Abi

QUB Student

April 2025

ABI'S STORY



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SUPPORT

**INTERNATIONAL DAY
OF PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES**

3 DECEMBER 2024





FUNDED SUPPORT



KIRSTI ALEXANDER

DISABILITY ASSESSMENT & SUPPORT MANAGER

APRIL 2025

Funded Support (ie DSA / Disabled Students' Allowance)



If you have **evidence** of a long-term condition, disability or specific learning difficulty, you may be entitled to **additional**, funded support to help with your studies.

What can it provide?

- One-to-one support
- Specialist Equipment
- Consumables
- Travel Expenses

How do I apply?

- Apply through SFNI / Education Authority (EA) or GB funding body (SFE / SFW / SAAS).
- RoI / Nursing / Midwifery students contact your Disability Officer.

Scan the QR code for more information on eligibility criteria and how to apply

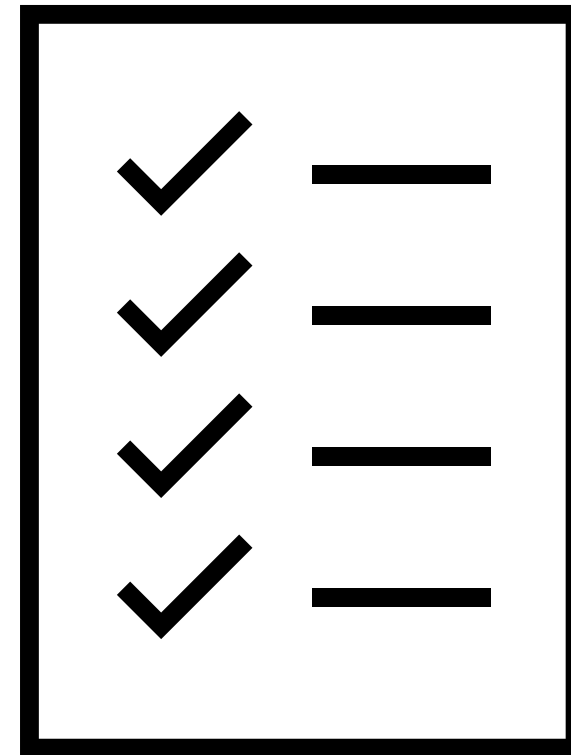


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What to Expect from Your Needs Assessment

- **What?** - A chat about your study challenges and support needs and a chance to explore and try assistive technology recommendations.
- **Who?** - A fully qualified needs assessor will guide you through the process.
- **Where?** - In One Elmwood or online, it's your choice.
- **How long?** Usually 1 to 1.5 hours.



Possible Funded Support



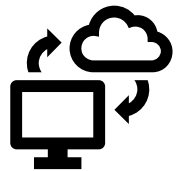
- **Assistive Technology** – Access to mind-mapping, text-to-speech, dictation software, screen readers and a range of other accessibility tools to support learning / studying.
- **Specialist Equipment** – Laptop, ergonomic keyboards / mouse, digital recorders, specialised furniture etc.
- **Consumables Allowance** – Funding for items like printer ink, paper and USB storage.
- **One-to-one Support** – In-person assistance with study skills support, note taking, proof reading, campus / library assistance, exam support and assistive technology training.
- **Travel Expenses** – Funding towards additional travel costs incurred by students who cannot use standard public transport due to their condition.



Funded vs Non-Funded



Students who are eligible for additional funded supports will also be able to receive **in-course adjustments** by registering with Accessible Learning Support.



Students who are not eligible for funded support will still be able to engage with Accessible Learning Support for **in-course adjustments**.



Key Contacts

Accessible Learning Service -
028 9097 5250 or
accessiblelearning@qub.ac.uk

Needs Assessment Centre –
(i.e. DSA) Phone: 028 9097
5062 Email:
nac@qub.ac.uk



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QUEEN'S ACCOMMODATION



QUEEN'S ACCOMMODATION - APPLICATIONS

Applications for Queen's Accommodation can be made on the main Queen's Accommodation site. [How to Apply | Accommodation at Queen's | Queen's University Belfast \(qub.ac.uk\)](#)



Applications for the 2025/2026
Simplified process using the UCAS
number

Applications are now OPEN

Choose up to 6 preferences

Across 6 Locations

Top Tip – Use personal email addresses
when creating a accommodation
account

All Inclusive Package...

What's included in your fees?



RISK FREE CONTRACTS

With no hidden costs



GYM MEMBERSHIP

Free off-peak Queen's Sport membership



TV & TV LICENSE

For communal areas



24/7

Safety Team



400+

Social events in our coffee bars



HEATING



250Mb

Wi-Fi included



100+

Residential Support staff



INSURANCE

Contents insurance provided



RESIDENTIAL LIFE @Queen's



RESIDENTIAL LIFE TEAM

Wellbeing Support – The Residential Life Team are available to speak to about adjusting to University Life away from home.

Social Events - The team organise a regular programme of social activities & trips, anything from pizza nights to trips to the North Coast.

Sustainability – The team help champion eco-initiatives here on site, such as our allotments, clothes swap rails and donation stations. Keep an out for Eco – our sustainability mascot!

We also have a team of Residential Assistants (RA's). The RA's run a nightly drop-in service at the Treehouse, so there is always a friendly face around if you need someone to talk to.



Lifestyle Options

We offer a number of options for students with specific accommodation requirements

- No Alcohol - consumption of alcohol is not permitted at any time
- Single Gender - members of the opposite gender are not permitted at any time
- Quiet Living - you are living with students who have chosen a more study focused environment and noise must be kept to a minimum at all times, especially after 11.00pm



Accessible Support

- Queen's guarantees accommodation to students who, because of their mobility are not able to access public transport or travel to/from the University to their home address daily and, as a result may prevent them from attending University. Applications for accommodation must be made by 30 June AND students must have registered with Queen's Disability Services. Applicants must provide full details on their accommodation application.



Key Information

- International, GB and ROI students to be guaranteed accommodation
Applications to be submitted by 30 June 2025 and made Queen's their first (firm) choice of university.
- NI students living outside 45 Miles from Queen's will be guaranteed accommodation
- Allocation commence on A-level Results Day – 14 August 2025
- Students will be allocated accommodation when they have been accepted onto a course at Queen's University Belfast.
- Once been allocated to accommodation there is 48 hours to respond and pay a £300 deposit.
- Students will be sent an email please make sure that you check emails regularly including junk or spam.
- Students who have not accepted their offer within the specified timeframe, or who decline the offer of accommodation, will forfeit the guarantee and the offer of accommodation will be withdrawn. If accommodation is subsequently required, a new application must be made, a subsequent offer is not guaranteed.



Contact us

028 9097 4403

allocations@qub.ac.uk



ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY: WHAT'S AVAILABLE TO YOU?



SARAH STEWART

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY COORDINATOR

APRIL 2025

So... What *is* Assistive Technology, Anyway?

Let's keep it simple:

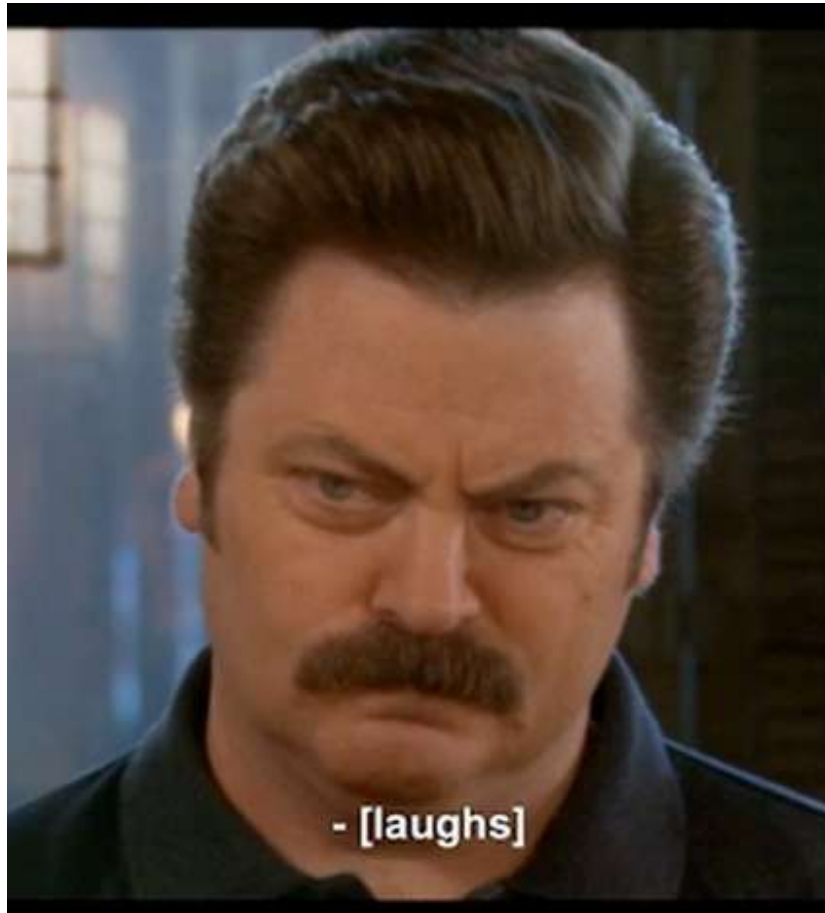
💡 Assistive Technology (AT) = any tech that helps someone do something they might otherwise find tricky.



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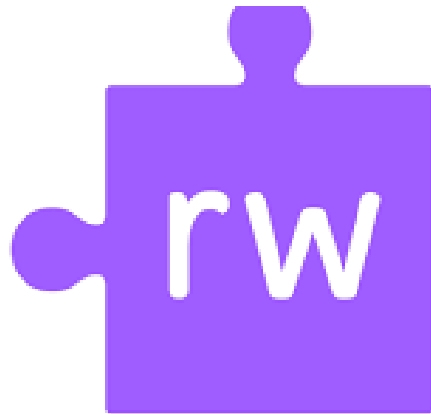
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You've definitely used AT if:



- **You've Watched TV with Subtitles** – *because we all pretend we can understand mumbly crime dramas*
- **Used Live Captions in Online Classes**– *for when someone's mic is in a wind tunnel*
- **Used Predictive Text** – *(and sent a very odd message thanks to autocorrect)*
- **Used Spellcheck** – *to save your professional dignity*
- **Used Voice Assistants** – *“Hey Siri, remind me to look like I've got it together”*





What's Available at QUB?

QUB Licensed Tools

- **Read&Write** – helps with reading and writing.
- **MindView** – brilliant for planning essays, projects, or just life.
- **Equatio** – helps with maths-y stuff like formulas and equations.

Microsoft 365 Tools (built into your student account)

- **Immersive Reader** – makes reading easier.
- **Dictation** – speak your ideas instead of typing.
- **Live Captions in Teams** – real-time subtitles.
- **Focus Mode** – reduces distractions

🔍 Want to explore these tools in more detail?
Check out the **QUB Assistive Technology Hub** for guides, videos,
and info on how to access everything: 🖱️
blogs.qub.ac.uk/studentatguide

Extra Assistive Tech Support

There's More If You're Funded!

Through DSA (or similar), students often get:

- ✓ A laptop or specialist equipment
- ✓ Software that's tailored to *you*
- ✓ Training to help you actually use it!
- ✓ Continued support from me if anything isn't working or you just need help.



- ✓ It's worth checking – the support is there if you need it. Visit [The Needs Assessment Centre](#) for more information and eligibility criteria.

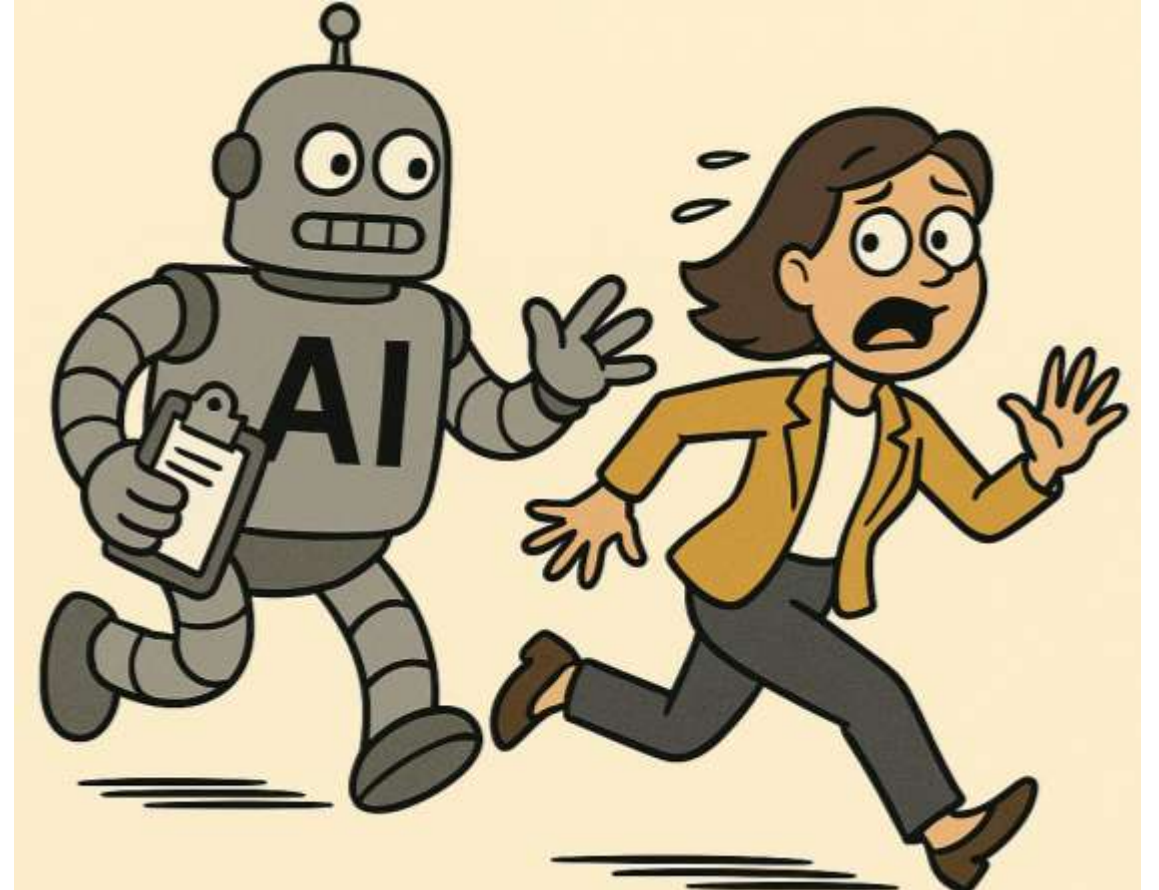
AI / AT Panic? Don't Worry! QUB's Got You!

- 🤖 "Am I allowed to use this?"
- 🤖 "Is this cheating?"
- 🧩 "What even is all this tech!?"

Totally valid questions — *you're not alone!*

There's been a lot of noise around AI and AT, but here's the good news...

Here at QUB we've got two fab resources to take the fear out of it all:



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QUB's AI & AT Hubs



QUB AI Hub -  <https://blogs.qub.ac.uk/digitallearning/ai/>

Covers:

- What QUB says about AI use
- Ethical and responsible use of AI in education
- Handy guides and training for all students



QUB AT Hub -  <https://blogs.qub.ac.uk/studentatguide/>

Covers

- What tools are available (and how to use them)
- Practical guides and resources for students
- Free apps, workshops, study help, and more!

AT Support at QUB – You're Not on Your Own!



💬 **One-to-one support for DSA/ALS students**

➤ *Help using your AT software or equipment*

📁 **Assistive Tech Hub**

➤ *Free tools, guides and resources*

🧠 **Assistive Tech Workshops**

➤ *Learn how to use notetaking tools, mind maps and much more.*

💬 **Assistive Tech Teams Channel**

➤ *Ask questions, get tips and chat with other students*

If you're not sure where to start – just reach out!

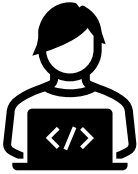
👉 assistivetechology@qub.ac.uk



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To do



Complete the online form to explore Accessible Learning Support options



Explore eligibility for funded support i.e. DSA by visiting the Needs Assessment Centre



Check out our website and get in touch if you need any help!

