

# Understanding and supporting the progression needs of learners with SEND

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**Aimhigher London** is a partnership of state-funded schools, colleges, local authorities, higher education providers and employers working collaboratively. We are committed to creating opportunities for young people from all backgrounds to stay in education and progress onto higher level skills (including Higher Education and apprenticeships). We work together to engage young people who have little knowledge or experience of higher level skills, in outreach activities. These activities are designed to increase aspirations, raise awareness and equip young people with the tools to make informed choices about their future. We work with young people, their families/carers and key support personnel from Key Stage 3 to post 16.

## Further reading

Office for Students (OfS) analysis of differences in student outcomes by different characteristics:  
<https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/data-and-analysis/differences-in-student-outcomes/>

'What happens next? A report on the outcomes of 2018 disabled graduates.'

<https://www.agcas.org.uk/News/what-happens-next-2021/268397>

Greater London Authority (GLA) 'London post-16 SEND review'

[https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london\\_send\\_post-16\\_review\\_0.pdf](https://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/london_send_post-16_review_0.pdf)

## Further support

**[Unifish.org.uk](https://www.unifish.org.uk)** – A website that brings together information about the disability support available across different London-based universities. This can be used by education staff, learners, and their parents/carers when researching university choices.

**[Preparing for Open Days and Visits](#)** – UCAS advice for learners with disabilities.

**[Virtual Open Days](#)** – list of virtual university open events on the UCAS website.

**[Into HE: a guide to additional support in higher education](#)** - Produced by Disability Rights UK, this guide aims to answer common questions that learners may have about whether colleges or universities will be accessible, how to choose a course, and the support available.

**[Know Before you Go](#)** - a resource from Student minds which gives advice to learners to help them manage the transition from school or college to university.

**[Preparing to Progress:](#)** series of online tips and short videos on the Aimhigher London website to help learners prepare for the transition to university.

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[Speaking to the disability support team/Mental Health Adviser](#) – UCAS webpage containing advice for learners and questions they may want to ask their university's disability support service.

[Funding higher education for disabled students](#) – information on the Disability Rights UK website about financial support for undergraduate study.

[Scholarships, grants, and bursaries](#) – UCAS information about additional funding for students with physical or mental health conditions and additional learning needs, to support with higher education.

[Disabled Students' Allowance](#) – short youtube video about extra financial support available for eligible students who have a disability, additional need, or long-term medical condition.

[Disabled Students' Allowance](#) – interactive video about applying for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA).

[Disabled Students' Allowance](#) – information on the government website about the financial support that learners may be eligible for to help cover the costs of disability-related study support, such as specialist equipment and software, and non-medical helpers.

[Student Budget Calculator](#) – learners can use this to estimate how much money they will need to live on at university.

[Assistive technology](#) – information on the Diversity & Ability website about free assistive technology resources.

[Supported internships](#) – UCAS information about supported internships for young people aged 18-24 who have an additional learning needs.

[Access to work](#) – information about support for people with a physical or mental condition or disability, to help them access employment or remain in employment.

[SEND Gateway](#) - Online portal offering education professionals free, easy access to high quality information, resources and training for meeting the needs of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

[Preparing for Adulthood](#) – Information for school staff about embedding support for young people with SEND to help prepare them for adulthood.

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**[IPSEA](#)** – free and independent legal information, advice, and support for parents of children with SEND to help them get the right support for their child.

**[SOS! SEN](#)** – a charity offering support and information to parents of children with special educational needs, including information about diagnostic assessments and the referral process for EHCPs.

**[Special Needs Jungle](#)** – Parent-led information, resources, and informed opinion about children and young people aged 0-25.

**[Contact](#)** – Support for young people and their families around preparing for transition and adulthood, including information about rights and entitlements.

## **University widening access opportunities**

**[Discover UCL](#)** – an online summer school for deaf and hard of hearing students in years 11 and 12.

**[University of West London](#)** – outreach team can provide individual personal statement support for learners with a disability. UWL also provides work experience opportunities and specialist university and careers days for learners with disabilities and additional learning needs.

**[University of Greenwich](#)** - STAART initiative supports students with disabilities, SpLD, and mental health needs to thrive at university. It provides information and guidance to current students as well as potential future students from the local area.

**[Aimhigher London](#)** – free annual ‘Preparing to Progress’ conference that aims to support learners with transition to higher education. For more information, contact [j.darby@kingston.ac.uk](mailto:j.darby@kingston.ac.uk)