

Post School Learning Options and Support



Continuing, further
and higher
education for
disabled learners

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About Lead Scotland



- Individualised learning at home or in the community
- Group work and accredited courses
- Befriending services
- Local services in Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire, North Lanarkshire, Dundee, Perth & Kinross, Highland, Moray and Fife
- Disabled Students' Helpline
- Free online downloadable guides related to disability and learning
- Use evidence from the helpline to influence change

What will we cover?

- The different options for learning after school
- Information about funding and support
- Where to get more information

Resource: Use the [My World of Work course search engine](#) to find courses across Scotland at all levels

What are the alternatives to the senior phase of school?



- Part time school timetable and teacher contact at home
- Highers and Nationals at college including part time, distance learning, evenings and weekends
- [InterHigh](#) – virtual classroom delivering GCSE's and A Levels
- Access courses at college, for example [SWAP](#) – Highers and National 5's not the only route into higher education
- Investigate whether the ILF Transition Fund could pay for a private tutor then sit exams at a school/college

Options for learning at college



- Transition and school links courses, for example [Glasgow Senior Phase Prospectus](#)
- Supported learning courses
- Highers and nationals
- HND's and HNC's
- Access to higher education courses
- Degree link courses
- Short and leisure courses
- And more!

Resource: [Supporting you at College](#)

University



- Part time, full time and distance learning (the Open University provides access courses as well as diplomas and degrees)
- Disabled Students' Allowance available for assistive technology, specialist equipment, ergonomic furniture and educational support workers e.g scribe, reader, signer, autism/mental health mentor, study skills support
- Every university has a Disability Service
- Counsellors, wellbeing workshops and groups
- If personal care/support required, ask for an assessment from your local social work department, be aware it is very rare to get funding for one to one class support

Resources: [DSA Factsheet](#), [Supporting you at University](#) and [Higher Education in Scotland](#)

Accommodation and benefits



- Halls of residence normally prioritised for 1st year students
- All universities and colleges should have student accommodation with accessible rooms available
- Some disabled students are eligible for Universal Credit – including help with rent costs but call our helpline as it's a complex system!
- Colleges and universities may be able to provide adapted furniture/facilities but normally request this from social services

Resource: CPAG Factsheet on [Benefits for Disabled Students](#) and Shelter's webpage on [disabled students accommodation rights](#)

Other learning options



- [Activity Agreements](#) – for young people aged 16-19 not in a ‘positive destination’ or at risk of not moving into one after school. Involves one to one key worker support, setting goals, taster activities, build confidence and progress to further learning
- [Adult Achievement Award](#) is context free accredited learning (gain a qualification by reflecting on learning from every day life, volunteering, activities, caring duties)
- Check your local council’s Youth Employment Activity Plan which should map out all local training and development options for young people after school – check the [Employability in Scotland website](#)
- Learn with Lead – 1-2 hours per week, personalised learning plan, support from a volunteer, device loan scheme, accredited courses, travel training, at home or in community

Employability



- Supported employment programmes – specialist services to support disabled people with preparing for work, developing skills, exploring options, work experience and help to find and move into work (this could include working with employer to discuss reasonable adjustments)
- Lots of different programmes available, some are tailored for specific age group, some for specific barriers and some for specific job sector
- [Fair Start Scotland](#) is the national service (with local providers)
- Search for other local [supported employment services on SUSE](#) (Scottish Union of Supported Employers)

Social Firms



- Social Firms a type of social enterprise that reinvest profits into training and employing people disadvantaged from the labour market
- For example bakeries, cafes, garden centres, recycling facilities, shops, factories – products/services sold to public for profit but profits reinvested
- Search for social firms on the [Social Enterprise Scotland website](#) (select location plus Education/training/employment)

Apprenticeships



- Foundation Apprenticeships – options for S4 and 5, classroom release, qualifications and work experience
- Modern Apprenticeships – paid work placement with day release for learning
- Apprenticeship learning can take place at college or with a private training provider
- Look for Disability Confident employers
- Access to Work grants for additional equipment and support on a Modern Apprenticeship

More information at [apprenticeships.scot](https://www.apprenticeships.scot)

Community and distance learning



- Short and non-accredited courses also available via distance learning (learning at home)
- Google MOOC's (Massive Open Online Courses) or try [Open Learn](#) from the OU
- Lead and other organisations are Open Learn 'champions' – we can support learners to use and maximise open learn resources
- Community Learning - charities, councils and private companies provide literacy, ESOL, digital skills and leisure courses for adults and young people – use the [WEA website](#) to search for courses, google CLD and the name of your council or even check your local university

COVID-19 updates



- Constantly changing situation, best to check social media pages of individual education providers for latest updates
- DSA needs assessments are being carried out remotely to keep applications moving
- Learning next session may be ‘blended’ model – remote and classroom based
- No exams this year, awards based on estimate grades - [check SQA for latest updates](#)
- Check [SAAS website](#) for updates about higher education student funding
- Look at [Lead’s COVID-19 student funding factsheet](#)

Where to get further information



- Call [Lead Scotland's Disabled Student's Helpline](#) (email and telephone)
- Access all our [free online guides](#)
- Use [Talking about Tomorrow](#) online resource to plan a transition
- Speak to the college or university – look at prospectuses, attend open days, arrange discussions and meetings with disability/supported learning teams
- Phone [Skills Development Scotland](#) to arrange Career Information Advice and Guidance after school (this should be made available during senior phase of school as well)