

HELP SHEET

HELP AT A GLANCE

Post-Secondary for Students with Disabilities in BC

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Did you know that all public BC post-secondary institutions have a disability or accessibility services department?

In order to access services, the student is required to contact the disability services office, provide documentation regarding their disability and provide consent for the department to share their disability related information for the purposes of providing accommodations. At the post-secondary level, the student must be the one to request the support (but this can be in collaboration with their parent or guardian, or another support person). The documentation should be provided well in advance to starting the course or program, so that the appropriate accommodations/adaptations can be planned for. Check specific deadlines with each institution.

Disability/Accessibility Centres generally have advisors that can support the student in various ways. Given the student's areas of need, they can help to organize accommodations recommended in your documentation and consistent with the disability such as: a scribe, audio books, extended time for writing exams, and sign language interpreters, and they may also be able to provide student supports such as liaising with instructors, and assisting with applications such as disability grants. Some disability access centers have Learning Specialists, who can assist with more direct support such as providing study strategies and exam preparation.

Did you know that post-secondary students with disabilities can apply for education grants?

Your post-secondary financial assistance office or disability/accessibility office may assist with the applications.

The Canada Student Grant for Students with Permanent Disabilities is available for each year of your studies as long as you still qualify.

- You could receive up to \$2,000 each school year (August 1 to July 31) of your studies (including undergraduate and graduate levels).

For eligibility requirements and information go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/services/education/grants/disabilities.html>

- The Canada Student Grant for Services and Equipment for Students with Permanent Disabilities as long as you still qualify.

You could receive up to \$8,000 each school year (August 1 to July 31) for each year of studies (including undergraduate and graduate levels)

For eligibility requirements and information go to: <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/education/student-aid/grants-loans/disabilities-service-equipment.html>

Additional Resources:

- The National Educational Association of Disabled Students (NEADS)
EdLink has a comprehensive database of contacts for all Disability/Accessibility departments in post-secondary institutions across BC and Canada: <https://www.neads.ca/en/norc/edlink/>
- Steps Forward
The BC Initiative for Inclusive Post-Secondary Education This program provides inclusion support for students with developmental disabilities to enroll, pursue studies and engage in extracurricular activities at their local college or university. For more information and application requirements, go to: <https://www.bc-ipse.org/>

- The SFU Autism Mentorship Initiative (AMI)

This peer mentorship program is designed to pair volunteer mentors with SFU students who are diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), with the goal of enhancing the student's sense of inclusion within the university community and to promote their engagement and success at SFU. For more information and to apply for this program, go to: <https://www.sfu.ca/students/accessible-learning/programs-and-services/autism-mentorship-program.html>

- Assistive Technology BC (ATBC)

This program provides assistive technology resources to people with disabilities in BC for their learning and work environments. For more information, go to: <https://www.at-bc.ca/>