



Sligo College
of Further Education

Student Access Support Service

Information for Students with Special Educational Needs

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Introduction:

Welcome to Sligo College of Further Education Learning Support and Access Service. In this booklet you will find all the information you need in relation to your application for supports while you are a learner with us.

The college welcomes applications from students with a Learning Disability or with a condition that requires extra supports in order for the learner to complete their studies with us.

The college has a well-established Learning Support Department providing a range of supports to Learners presenting with additional needs.

This booklet contains information on how to apply for supports in the college and how the service operates in the college.

Should you require any additional information please email access@sligocfe.ie

Disclosure:

Students applying for a course at Sligo College of Further Education apply online.

If you wish to disclose that you have a learning disability or require supports in relation to a medical or other condition, please fill in the student support form. This form is available on the college website. http://www.sligocfe.ie/support_services

You may then contact the access officer by emailing access@sligocfe.ie

You will be offered a consultation appointment in early September. It is necessary for you to bring the completed student support form together with the relevant documentation to your appointment.

Your application for supports will then be assessed.

Students with a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia must provide a report from a qualified educational psychologist. Students presenting with other disabilities and medical conditions must provide a report from an accepted medical consultant or medical specialist.

GP letters are not accepted.

Supports at Sligo College of Further Education:

The college has a dedicated learning support department staffed by teachers who are fully qualified in the area of learning support.

We aim to provide the Learner with the best possible opportunities and the support provided reflect the needs of the learner.

The college provides supports to all students who disclose a disability. Supports are provided in consultation with the Learner.

The range of services provided include:

- Personal Assistant
- Learning Support
- Assistive Technology
- Examination Accommodations
- Sign Language/ Interpreter
- Notetaker
- Specific Subject Tuition

How to Avail of Supports:

To receive supports as a learner with us please **e-mail** the access officer in the college.

access@sligocfe.ie

You will be **offered an appointment** in the first or second week of September.

Please bring to your appointment the completed **Student Support Form** (available on the college website) and your **documentation** in relation to your disability.

Your application will then be **assessed**.

Please note there are **closing dates** for learning support applications.

STEPS TO REGISTER FOR SUPPORTS

- 1.** Contact the access officer – access@sligocfe.ie
- 2.** You will receive a time and date for your consultation which will be during the first two weeks of September.
- 3.** Complete the student support form – available on the college website
- 4.** Take the relevant documentation in relation to your disability and your completed student support form with you to your consultation.
- 5.** Your application will then be assessed.

Fund for Students with Disabilities:

Sligo College of Further Education makes an application for funding to the Higher Education Authority.

The application is completed in September.

The purpose of the Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD) is to provide resources to colleges of Further Education and Higher Education for the delivery of key services, accommodations and supports for learners with disabilities on full time courses.

The fund aims to support the personal, educational and professional development of the participating learner and contribute to the achievement of their full potential.

To apply for funding to the HEA students must provide the college with evidence of their disability.

The following table outlines the different types of disabilities and special educational needs and shows the relevant and necessary documentation required to apply to this fund.

Disability	Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's syndrome)
Report to be provided & signed by	Appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body
FSD eligibility	Where the above person has provided a diagnosis of autism or Asperger's syndrome.
Age of report	No age limit.

Disability	Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
Report to be provided & signed by	Appropriately qualified Consultant Psychiatrist OR Psychologist OR Neurologist OR Paediatrician who is a member of his or her professional or regulatory body
FSD eligibility	Where the above person has provided a diagnosis of ADD/ADHD.
Age of report	No age limit.

Disability	Blind/Vision Impaired
FSD eligibility	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of disability from an Ophthalmologist/Ophthalmic Surgeon, with signature; • Letter from the National Council for the Blind confirming registration with the Council; • If a student has attended a school for the Blind, a letter on headed notepaper signed by the principal which confirms attendance at the school. <p>In the case of an Ophthalmologist/Ophthalmic Surgeon the evidence of disability should provide a diagnosis of severe reduction in vision that cannot be corrected with standard glasses or contact lenses, thereby reducing the person's ability to function at certain or all tasks. The diagnosis of a reduction in vision must be in relation to Best Corrected Visual Acuity or Field of Vision.</p>
Age of evidence of disability	No age limit.

Disability	Deaf/Hard of Hearing
FSD eligibility	<p>One or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An audiogram from a professionally qualified Audiologist and/or ENT Consultant, with signature, clearly indicating moderate to profound bilateral hearing loss (i.e. above 40dB). • If a student has attended a school for the Deaf, a letter on headed notepaper signed by the principal which confirms attendance at the school.
Age of evidence of disability	No age limit.

Disability	Mental Health Condition (including, but not exclusive to, the following: Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Clinical Depressive Conditions, Severe Anxiety, Severe Phobias, OCD, Severe Eating Disorders and Psychosis).
Report to be provided & signed by	Consultant Psychiatrist or Specialist Registrar who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant mental health condition.
Age of report	The report should be no older than five years from the date of needs assessment.

Disability	Neurological Condition (including Brian Injury, Epilepsy, Speech & Language Disabilities).
Report to be provided & signed by	<p>Neurological Conditions: Neurologist OR other relevant Consultant</p> <p>Speech & Language Disabilities: Speech and Language Therapist</p>
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant neurological condition.
Age of report	No age limit.

Disability	Significant Ongoing Illness
Report to be provided & signed by	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diabetes Type 1: Endocrinologist or paediatrician • Cystic Fibrosis: Consultant respiratory physician or pediatrician • Gastroenterology Conditions: Gastroenterologist • Others: Relevant Consultant in area of condition, or Consultant Registrar.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above, as appropriate, should diagnose a significant ongoing illness.
Age of report	The report should be no older than five years from the date of needs assessment.

Disability	Physical / Mobility
Report to be provided & signed by	Orthopaedic Consultant or other relevant specialist appropriate to the disability/condition.
FSD eligibility	The report from the above should diagnose a significant physical or mobility difficulty.
Age of report	No age limit.

Disability	Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia / Dysgraphia)
Report to be provided & signed by <u>each</u> of the following:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Appropriately qualified Psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body. • Appropriately qualified Occupational Therapist or Neurologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body.
FSD eligibility requires both of the following:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A full psycho-educational assessment from the Psychologist diagnosing Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia), and 2. A report by the Occupational Therapist/Neurologist diagnosing Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia). <p>All tests used in the assessments must be current, valid, and reliable and age appropriate. For the purposes of the Fund, the CAO/DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable evidence of disability for this category of disability</p>
Age of report	No age limit.

Disability	Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia)
Report to be provided & signed by	Appropriately qualified Psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body; or, an assessor who is accredited by PATOSS.
FSD eligibility	<p>Full psycho-educational assessment from the above diagnosing a Specific Learning Difficulty. All tests used in the assessment must be current, valid, and reliable and age appropriate.</p> <p>For the purposes of the Fund, the CAO/DARE Evidence of Disability Form is not acceptable evidence of disability for this category of disability.</p>
Age of report	The report should be no older than five years from the date of needs assessment. If the tests referred to in the report have clearly been conducted using Adult Scales, then the five year time limit will not apply.

Disability	General Learning Difficulty (Including Intellectual Difficulty and Learning Difficulties resulting from an Acquired Brain Injury)
Report to be provided & signed by	Appropriately qualified Psychologist who is a member of their respective professional or regulatory body.
FSD eligibility	Full psycho-educational assessment from the above diagnosing a General Learning Difficulty. All tests used in the assessment must be current, valid, and reliable and age appropriate.