



## Key Terminology: What Does it Mean? And How Does it Differ?

School Term	University Term	Notes
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) Special Needs Special Educational Needs (SEN) Additional Needs	Disability	<p>Universities do not use the term 'Special Educational Needs' as this is specific to schools and colleges. Instead, universities use the word 'disability'. This may feel unfamiliar, but the term 'disability' is broad and considers any physical, mental, or sensory impairment which has a significant impact on daily life, and which is long term (i.e., lasts more than 12 months). For a student, daily activities might include taking notes, writing, researching, reading large amounts of text, and moving between multiple locations. This includes people who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• are D/deaf or hearing impaired</li><li>• are blind or visually impaired</li><li>• are physically disabled, and/or have mobility difficulties</li><li>• have a specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)</li><li>• have a neurodevelopmental condition (e.g. AD(H)D)</li><li>• have a neurological condition (e.g. epilepsy, Tourette Syndrome, stammer)</li><li>• are autistic</li><li>• have a mental health condition</li><li>• have a long-term medical condition (e.g. asthma, diabetes, cancer, HIV)</li><li>• have a combination of these</li></ul> <p>If any of these apply to you, you are likely to be eligible for support and adjustments to your learning, teaching and assessment.</p> <p>Although it might feel difficult or unfamiliar to use the term 'disability' or 'disabled' for the first time, remember that disability is about the barriers created by society, not about your worth, ability or intellect. Identifying as disabled gives you protection under the Equality Act 2010 and enables you to access support and adjustments.</p>

## 2 Key Terminology

School Term	University Term	Notes
SEND Department Additional Learning Support (ALS) Learning Support Team	Disability Services Disability Team Student Support Student Services Wellbeing/Welfare Services	The name given to the service or team that supports disabled students varies depending on the university, but most will contain the word 'disability', 'wellbeing' or 'support' in their title. Use a search engine to search for the name of the university plus the word 'disability' or contact Student Services at the university to ask for details.
Special Educational Needs (& Disabilities) Coordinator (SENCo or SENDCo) Learning Support Coordinator	Disability Advisor/Adviser Disability Coordinator Disability Officer Wellbeing Advisor/Adviser Inclusion Advisor/Adviser	The equivalent of a SENCo at university is usually someone who works in Disability Services or Student Support Services. Their title can vary, but will usually contain the word 'disability', 'wellbeing' or 'inclusion', and 'advisor' or 'adviser', 'coordinator' or 'officer'.
Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) Statement of Needs Pupil Passport	Needs Assessment Report Reasonable Adjustments Plan Support Summary Sheet Individual Learning Plan	The equivalent of an EHCP or Statement at university is called different things at different universities. Most universities will have some method of sharing information about support and adjustments with other colleagues, often with the word 'support', 'reasonable adjustments' or 'plan' in the title. If you apply for Disabled Students Allowances (DSA) you will have a Needs Assessment Report as part of the application process.