

Dear Colleague

DSA Overseas Exception - Armed Forces

From 2017/18, DSA funding will be available to those (and some immediate family members) who are employed by the Armed forces. Courses would be distance learning and delivered by a UK institution, while the student is residing overseas.

While we do not anticipate that there will be a significant intake of applications from this customer group, please be advised that in line with the new policy, you may see DSA applications from students who are resident overseas.

How does this affect the attendance of a Needs Assessment?

The DSA Team will take steps to identify these applications at the Eligibility phase before they are referred to an Assessment Centre and we will take the student through each stage of the process, with an assigned caseworker due to the unknown nature of the logistics of this policy change.

For example, it may be necessary to facilitate assessments to this customer group via alternative means, such as Skype, telephone or email exchange.

How does this affect the support recommended in the Needs Assessment Report?

Owing to the overseas residence, there is an expectation that customers will not receive the exact same support package / mode of delivery that they would have otherwise received, if they were residing in the UK.

It is unlikely that the full range of NMH support will be available in the country of residence. There is an expectation that this support will typically be delivered by a UK provider via a digital medium. It will be expected that any support requirements are discussed with NMH provider upfront to ensure that the recommended support worker is capable of facilitating provisions digitally, prior to including quotes in the report. Where support cannot be identified through DSA QAG Registered providers, exceptions will be considered.

Similarly with the provision of equipment through the current ATSPs, additional discussions will be required around warranty/insurance and delivery for overseas students.

We are available to answer any questions via our usual telephone and email channels but as described above, each case will be monitored through the process with a caseworker.

Yours sincerely

SFE DSA Operations