

5. What is the ESF Fund for Students with Disabilities?

Study-related supports for learners with disabilities are financed through the ESF Fund for Students with Disabilities (FSD). This fund is sponsored by the Department of Education and Skills with assistance from the European Social Fund. The National Office for Equity of Access to Higher Education administers the Fund and sets out the categories eligible for funding under this scheme (**deadlines** apply each year).

Learners within the following categories may be eligible to apply for funding:

- Autistic Spectrum Disorders (Including Asperger's Syndrome)
- ADD / ADHD
- Blind/Visual Impairment
- Deaf / Hearing Impairment
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia)
- Mental Health Condition (Including but not exclusive to: Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia, Clinical Depressive Conditions, Severe Anxiety, Severe Phobias, OCD, Severe Eating Disorders and Psychosis)
- Neurological Condition (Including but not exclusive to: Brain Injury, Epilepsy, Speech and Language Disabilities)
- Significant on-going Illness
- Physical Disability / Mobility Difficulties
- Specific Learning Difficulty (Dyslexia/Dyscalculia)

Contact: aro@carlowcollege.ie for further information.

Note: First time applicants do not need to be exclusively those in the first year of a course. Learners may apply in any year of their studies.

Further information is available at www.studentfinance.ie