

SEND Language Terminology: Quick reference

Terminology used between schools, colleges and universities can create an additional barrier to understanding what support is available. The National Association of Disability Practitioners (NADP) has created this table outlining some of the differences between language used at school/college and university:

Key Terminology

School terms	University terms	Notes
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND)	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.</p> <p>This includes people who</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• are D/deaf or hearing impaired• are blind or visually impaired• are physically disabled, and/or have mobility difficulties• have a specific learning difficulty (e.g. dyslexia)• have a neurodevelopmental condition (e.g. AD(H)D)• have a neurological condition (e.g. epilepsy, Tourette Syndrome, stammer)• are autistic• have a mental health condition• have a long-term medical condition (e.g. chronic fatigue syndrome, asthma, diabetes, cancer, HIV)• have a combination of these
Special Needs	Disabled	
Special Educational Needs (SEN)		
Additional Needs		

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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 Disability Coordinator Disability Officer Wellbeing Advisor Inclusion Advisor	The equivalent of a SENDCo 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 applying for Disabled Students Allowances (DSA), a Needs Assessment Report forms part of the application process.

To sign up to the SEND PP newsletter and find out more about HE for disabled students, visit kmpf.org or email SENDPP@kent.ac.uk

The above table is courtesy of the National Association of Disability Practitioners, NADP (nadp-uk.org), and was provided by Dr Melanie Thorley, STAART Manager and SEND PP Partner, University of Greenwich.