

What is a Needs
Assessment?

An Individual Needs Assessment will...

- determine the level of support a student requires
- be based on appropriate evidence of disability and information obtained from the student on the impact of their disability
- look at the course requirements to identify supports designed to meet a student's needs
- Look at the physical Environment

<https://hea.ie/funding-governance-performance/funding/student-finance/fund-for-students-with-disabilities/>

What to expect at a Needs Assessment ?

- The Needs Assessment usually lasts between 1 and 1.5 hours
- You will be asked specific questions but it will feel more like a chat
- You are welcome to bring a parent/guardian with you to the Needs Assessment

We are responsible for recommending and coordinating supports and reasonable accommodations which are tailored to suit each individual student who registers with the OLC.

Your involvement in this process is essential and we would encourage you to make contact with us and participate fully with the Needs Assessment

Evidence of Special Educational Need/ Disability

- Educational Psychological Report
- Consultant's Report
- Psychiatrist's Report
- Speech and Language Report

Please note GP letters are not accepted

The Needs Assessment is an opportunity to talk to someone about...

- the positive and negative aspects of supports you received in the past
- any concerns you may have about studying at Cavan Institute
- what you think may help you achieve success in Cavan Institute
- How you studied in the past

You will also get to know what supports and help is available to you.

Questions you may be asked..

- How is your education impacted by your SEN/Disability?
- What supports did you receive in post-primary school?
- Have you used any assistive technologies?
- What Exam Accommodations did you receive in your State Exams?
- Have you any concerns about your course?

Eligible conditions

The following conditions are eligible for support under the Fund for Students with Disabilities

- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (including Asperger's syndrome);
- Attention Deficit Disorder/Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder;
- Blind/Vision Impaired;
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing;
- 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);
- Neurological Condition (including Brain Injury, Epilepsy, Speech & Language Disabilities);
- Significant Ongoing Illness;
- Physical/mobility;
- Developmental Co-ordination Disorder (Dyspraxia/Dysgraphia); and
- Specific Learning Difficulties (Dyslexia or Dyscalculia).

The Fund for Students with Disabilities(FSD)

- **Eligible expenditure:** for all institutions funding can be used to provide supports and accommodations in any of the following four categories:
 - Assistive technology equipment and software;
 - Personal assistance;
 - Academic/learning support; and
 - Transport.
- **Ineligible expenditure:** for all institutions the Fund does not cover expenditure on any of the following:
 - assessment or diagnosis of a disability;
 - any medical equipment, assistance or support;
 - services that can reasonably be expected to be provided by the college (e.g. counselling service) or by another agency (e.g. local Health Service);
 - course-related equipment, books, materials or software (i.e. applicable to all students on the course);
 - support or assistance provided outside the academic year, or periods during the academic year when the college is closed;
 - Subsistence, mileage and accommodation costs for personal assistants, note-takers, speed-text operators or ISL interpreters; and
 - staff training and development policy work or research