**Transition to Adulthood for Visually Impaired young people.**

**University (Higher Education)**

**Many careers require a professional qualification which can only be obtainable from a university or Higher Education organisation. *Unibuddy Explore*** [**Unibuddy | About our company**](https://unibuddy.com/about/) **can direct you to the relevant qualifications needed for careers.**

**The**[**Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT)'s Student Support service**](https://www.pocklington-trust.org.uk/Pages/Category/student-support)**has an online information hub to support students with a sight impairment. It provides advice about courses, getting support at university, finance and about life at university. You can listen to students talking about their experiences, link into a network with other students and call the TPT Student Support Line for information on 0203 757 8040.**

**LOOK’s Student Mentor Scheme support those between 18-29years in higher or further education. They will match you with a visually impaired graduate who can support you with applying for Disabled Students Allowance and Student Finance, help with how to access learning materials, live as independently as possible & enjoy social opportunities at university. Contact LOOK at** [**www.Look-uk.org**](http://www.Look-uk.org) **or 07464 351 958**

**Blind in Business provide support for young people with sight impairments by running workshops about achieving your aspirations, talking about your sight issues, obtaining work experience as well as support applying for university and in studying. Contact 02075881885.** [**Blind in Business About Us - Blind in Business**](https://blindinbusiness.org.uk/about-us)

**Guide Dogs have an Education Support Service who can help with issues related to education including choosing the right college. They can also help you understand your rights & entitlements at college and support you to reach your potential during your course.** [**Education Support | Guide Dogs**](https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/getting-support/information-and-advice/education-support/)

**Applying for university:**

**You will need to apply for your chosen universities one year in advance via UCAS (**[**www.ucas.com**](http://www.ucas.com)**). Your school or college should be able to help you with this.**

**As part of your university application you will need to write a Personal Statement detailing your experience, hobbies & values. A worksheet is available on ucas.com with ideas to help with your statement.**

**You do not have to declare any Sight Impairment or other disabilities on your UCAS application but doing so will allow universities to plan how to support you.**

[**Sight Advice FAQ | Should I declare my vision impairment/disability on my UCAS form?**](https://www.sightadvicefaq.org.uk/children-young-people-families/further-higher-education/declare-disability)

**Declaring your sight loss:**

**Once you have firm plans to attend a particular university they have a legal obligation to make reasonable adjustments to provide help to support you in your studies if you declare a disability. These articles give you some insight into this:**

[**Sight Advice FAQ | What are reasonable adjustments and what should I consider?**](https://www.sightadvicefaq.org.uk/children-young-people-families/further-higher-education/university-adjustments)

[**Sight Advice FAQ | What are my legal rights at university and college?**](https://www.sightadvicefaq.org.uk/children-young-people-families/further-higher-education/university-legal-rights)

**If you have declared your vision impairment you will most likely be asked to meet with learning support staff who will record the type of adjustments you require. This document can be adjusted as any needs change. If you become aware of any changes in your needs it would be your responsibility to highlight if anything needs changing in the document.**

**Universities hold Open Days where you would have the opportunity to meet with staff, to see if the university environment is suitable for your needs and to judge what mobility and orientation support you might require. You can also visit accommodation to consider any adaptations that you might need.**

**If you require mobility support e.g. to learn routes to/from campus or finding your way around the university you may benefit from arriving at university before the start of Fresher’s week when it is quieter.**

[**Starting university - RNIB - See differently**](https://www.rnib.org.uk/young-people/starting-university)

**Funding to assist with additional costs**

**Funding to assist with extra costs linked to your sight issue eg Personal Assistant or IT equipment may be available via a Disabled Student’s Allowance:** [**Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: Disabled Students' Allowance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa)**. You can apply for this via your Student Finance account.**

**Checklist for applying for Higher Education**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Task** | **Contact**  | **completed** |
| **Talk to school careers service/Inspira about appropriate courses** |  |  |
| **Register for a mentor from LOOK** | **07464 351 958** |  |
| **Obtain support for applying for university from Blind in Business.** | **020 7588 1885****https://blindinbusiness.org.uk** |  |
| **Find out about appropriate courses & qualifications via *Unibuddy Explore*** | [**Unibuddy | About our company**](https://unibuddy.com/about/) |  |
| **Obtain advice about writing your personal statement** | [**www.ucas.com**](http://www.ucas.com) |  |
| **Visit universities & ensure you make contact with their disability support officers** | **Learning Support at relevant university** |  |
| **Apply for Disability Students Allowance** | [**Help if you're a student with a learning difficulty, health problem or disability: Disabled Students' Allowance - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)**](https://www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa) |  |
| **Attend university early to learn mobility routes via Learning Support** | **Learning Support at relevant university** |  |