

Northern School of Contemporary Dance have a commitment and dedication to Accessibility. As an institution we are continually developing our strategies for providing accessible and inclusive accommodations for all students and staff, including those with disabilities. We have many facilities, such as learning assistance, [wellbeing support](#), and [policies](#) to make the University an inclusive setting.

### **Advice for Accessible Living**

Northern School of Contemporary Dance does not own student accommodation, but we do use the services of **Unipol**, a student housing charity, who accredit our recommended student housing. There are adapted living options available for students in Leeds, it is a case of working with Unipol and NSCD so we can support you in finding accommodation that is suitable for your personal needs.

Unipol have an adapted property which is wheelchair accessible but these often get booked before Christmas for the following academic year. This is ideal for someone who has deferred a year, or continuing your studies:

<https://www.unipolhousing.org.uk/properties/12a-clarendon-place-university-arealeeds-ls2/>

Unipol accommodations are [National Code](#) providers, as well as many other student housing providers in the city. [National Code](#) providers are required to offer students with mobility/physical impairments adapted rooms at the lowest rent available.

Here is an example of another National Code provider's accessible accommodation:

[Gold En Suite Access | iQ Student Accommodation](#)

Advice for Accessible Accommodation:

[What Disability Options to Consider | Student Accommodation \(mansionstudent.co.uk\)](#)

[Accommodation for disabled students | Undergraduate | UCAS](#)

Unipol do have lots of accommodation types and options available in their portfolio but the house hunting cycle for NSCD is later than the other Universities in Leeds. The accommodation in Chapeltown which many NSCD students prefer is also more limited from an access perspective. If there is a property you are interested in within the surrounding areas of NSCD we would encourage you to contact the landlord/company to enquire about any reasonable adjustments.

## **Potential barriers on student living**

Here are some things to think about when looking for student accommodation:

- Door widths
- If there are steps between the car park and your room
- Disabled / parking spaces
- How many lifts there are (if there is only 1 lift, what happens when it breaks?)
- Floor surfaces
- Where bedroom/bathroom/kitchen are in relation to each other & measurements of spaces e.g. is there a tight gap in between cabinets in the kitchen
- Fire evacuation procedures
- Noise levels
- How far it is from NSCD & what the transport options are
- How far it is from local amenities

## **Private Accommodation**

If you choose to rent privately, it's important to know your rights. Letting agents and landlords cannot legally discriminate against you for being disabled, meaning they can't:

- refuse to let a property to you on the grounds that you're disabled
- say that pets aren't allowed if you need a guide dog or other assistance animal
- evict you for being disabled

As with university accommodation, a private landlord is legally obliged to make 'reasonable adjustments to prevent disability discrimination', and they must provide auxiliary aids if you ask for them.

-any extra services or equipment you need for the property on account of your disability should be covered by them. These adjustments may include:

- installing a ramp for a wheelchair user
- providing special furniture you might need in the house, like a raised seat for your toilet
- installing an entry phone system that you can easily use
- painting door frames a darker colour to make them more visible

Some things are **not** included under the term 'reasonable adjustment'. For instance, if you need any physical features like an accessible shower or lower worktops, your landlord is not obliged to provide these.

You can contact Unipol or the NSCD Student Services Team if you're unsure whether your landlord is legally obliged to make the adjustments you're requesting.

- [info@unipol.org.uk](mailto:info@unipol.org.uk)
- [studentservices@nscd.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@nscd.ac.uk)

### **Financial help for students with disabilities**

All students are eligible to apply for a student loan, and bursaries are also available for some people, but there's [extra help](#) you can get if you're disabled.

You can apply for [Disabled Students' Allowances \(DSA\)](#) alongside any financial assistance that is available or that you are eligible for. You don't need to pay DSA back, this money is not a loan. The amount you're eligible for depends on your individual circumstances, with support available under 'specialist equipment allowance', 'non-medical helper allowance' and 'general allowance'. This can help you to cover the cost of things like:

- a new laptop that meets your study needs, keyboard, dyslexia assistance applications etc.
- personal help like support from a reader, note-taker, sign language interpreter or proofreader if needed
- additional travel costs, for example, taking taxis to university

NSCD can support you to apply for DSA, please contact [studentservices@nscd.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@nscd.ac.uk) to find out more.

NSCD also aim to financially support students where possible. Please see the [financial assistance](#) webpage or contact [financial.assistance@nscd.ac.uk](mailto:financial.assistance@nscd.ac.uk) to find out more.

Charitable grants may also be available depending on your specific needs and circumstances. Use [Scope's Grant Checker](#) tool to find out if there's any you can apply for. Be aware that you may need to provide some evidence as part of your application, such as a letter from your doctor.

### **Local Amenities (close to NSCD)**

#### **Food Shops:**

Lidl, Aldi, Tesco, Morrisons, Abu Bar, Taste the Orient etc

**Pharmacy:** There is a pharmacy on Chapeltown Rd called Shifa Pharmacy Address: 225 Chapeltown Rd, Leeds LS7 3DX

**Post office:** Sheepscar Post Office, Sackville St, Leeds LS7 2AT

It will depend on where your accommodation is located but there will be a range of amenities close to where you are staying.

**Further support**

You may find the following resources helpful:

<https://www.leedsmind.org.uk/>

<https://www.dial-leeds.org.uk/>

<https://www.learningdisabilityservice-leeds.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.transleeds.org/>

[Leeds Mental Wellbeing Service \(LMWS\) - MindWell \(mindwell-leeds.org.uk\)](#)