

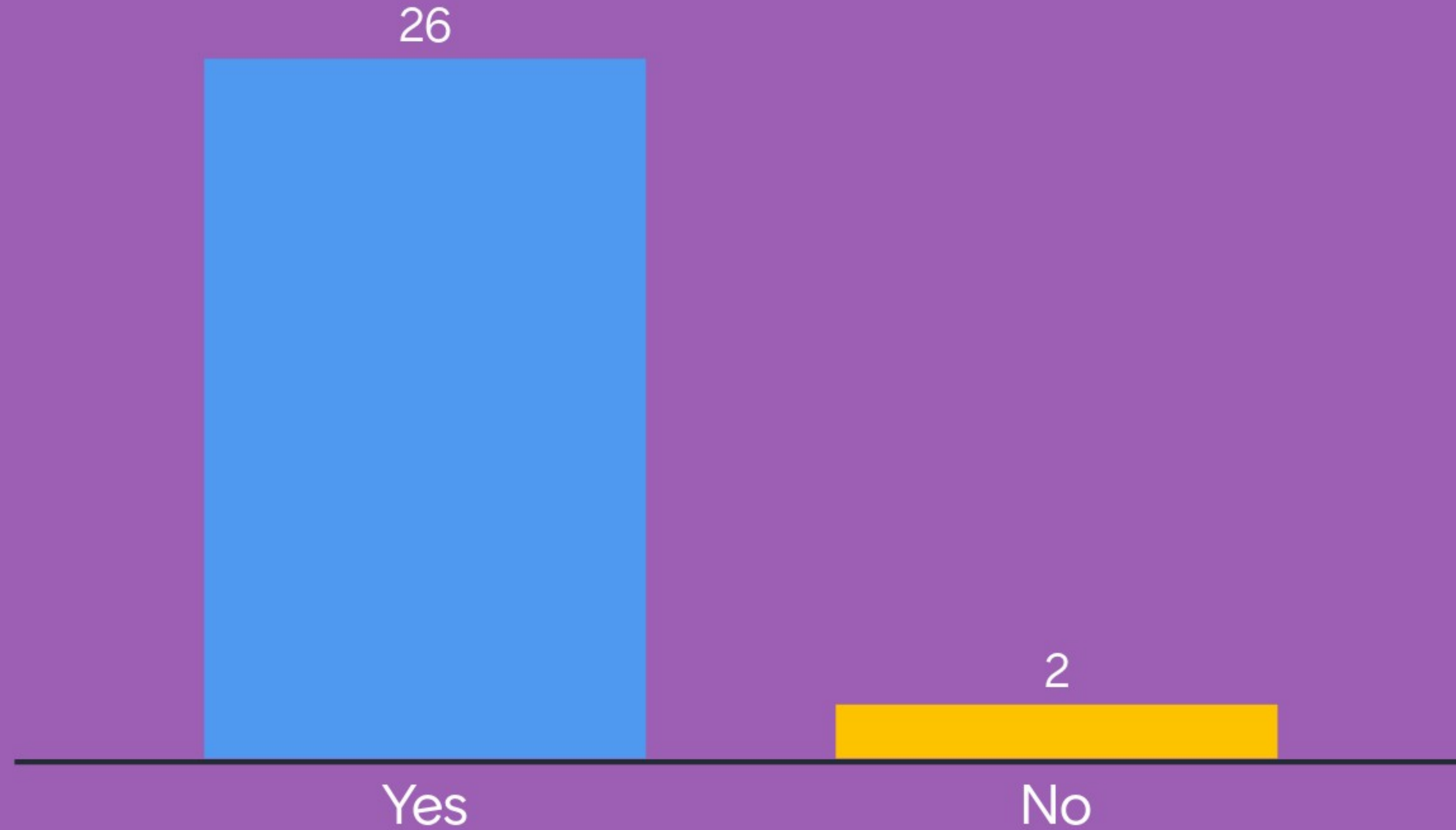
Instructions



Disabled Students Allowance and supporting students with disabilities

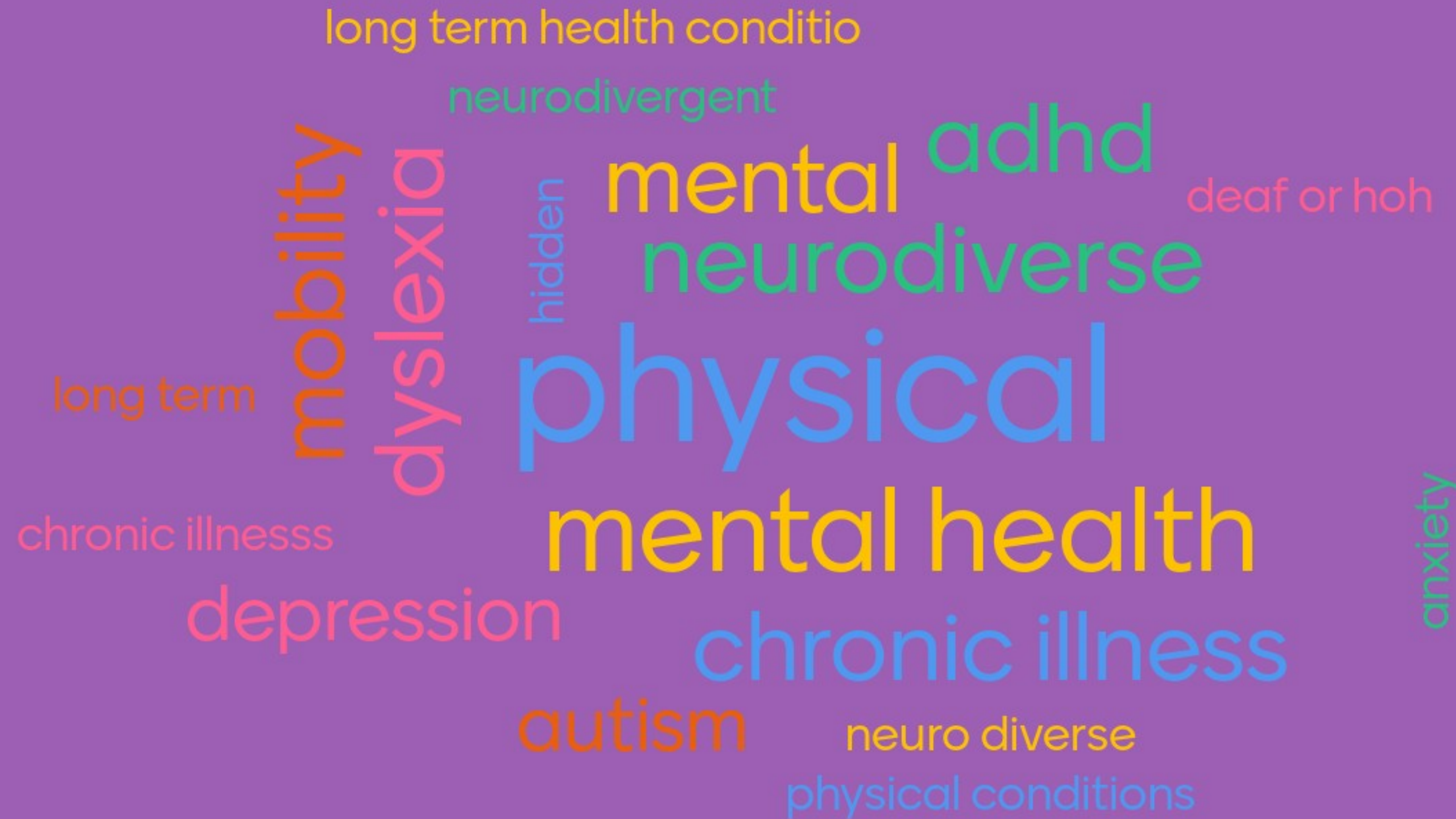


Have you heard of DSA before today?



DISCUSS:
What does the word
"disability" mean to
you?

What "disabilities" do you believe are covered by DSA?



UCAS Disability codes

- A** No disability
- B** You have a social/communication impairment such as Asperger's syndrome/other autistic spectrum disorder
- C** You are blind or have a serious visual impairment uncorrected by glasses
- D** You are deaf or have a serious hearing impairment
- E** You have a long standing illness or health condition such as cancer, HIV, diabetes, chronic heart disease, or epilepsy
- F** You have a mental health condition, such as depression, schizophrenia or anxiety disorder
- G** You have a specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia, dyspraxia or AD(H)D
- H** You have physical impairment or mobility issues, such as difficulty using your arms or using a wheelchair or crutches
- I** You have a disability, impairment or medical condition that is not listed above
- J** You have two or more impairments and/or disabling medical conditions



Hello!

- Hi I'm Bella
- Diagnosed with Generalised Anxiety Disorder and Depression between my 3rd and 4th year of study
- I had no idea how to control my anxiety or how to manage it
- This led to bad habits forming, like studying for 17 hours a day, without breaks (that's 6am-11pm)
- Through DSA, I received the support I needed to excel in my studies and as a person
- Currently undergoing diagnosis for ADHD



Who is the DSA company?

- A separate company that deals with DSA application
- They decide who gets what
- They monitor and collaborate with universities to ensure students get the support they are entitled to
- They provide a form of non-repayable support that disabled students can apply for

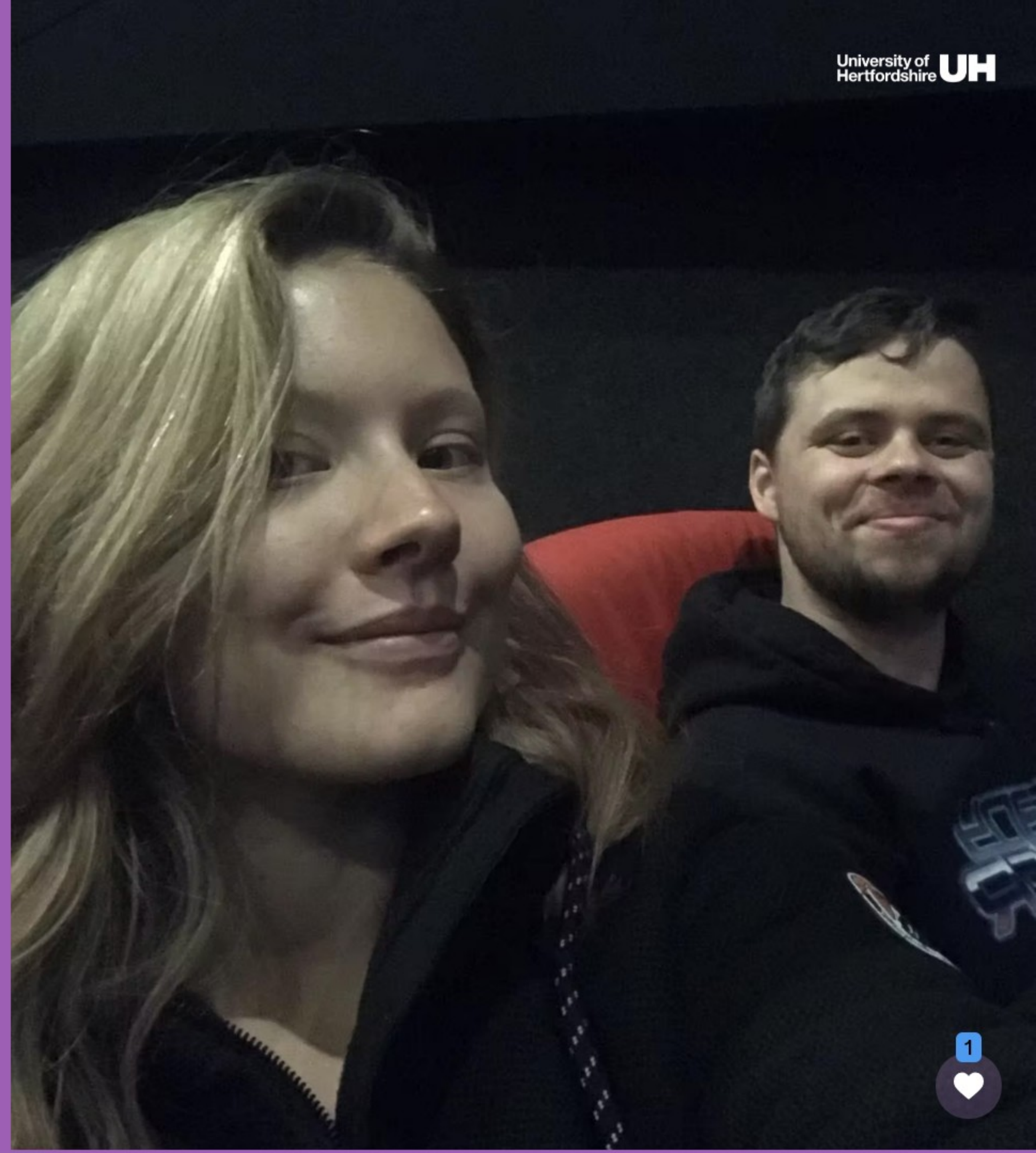


Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)

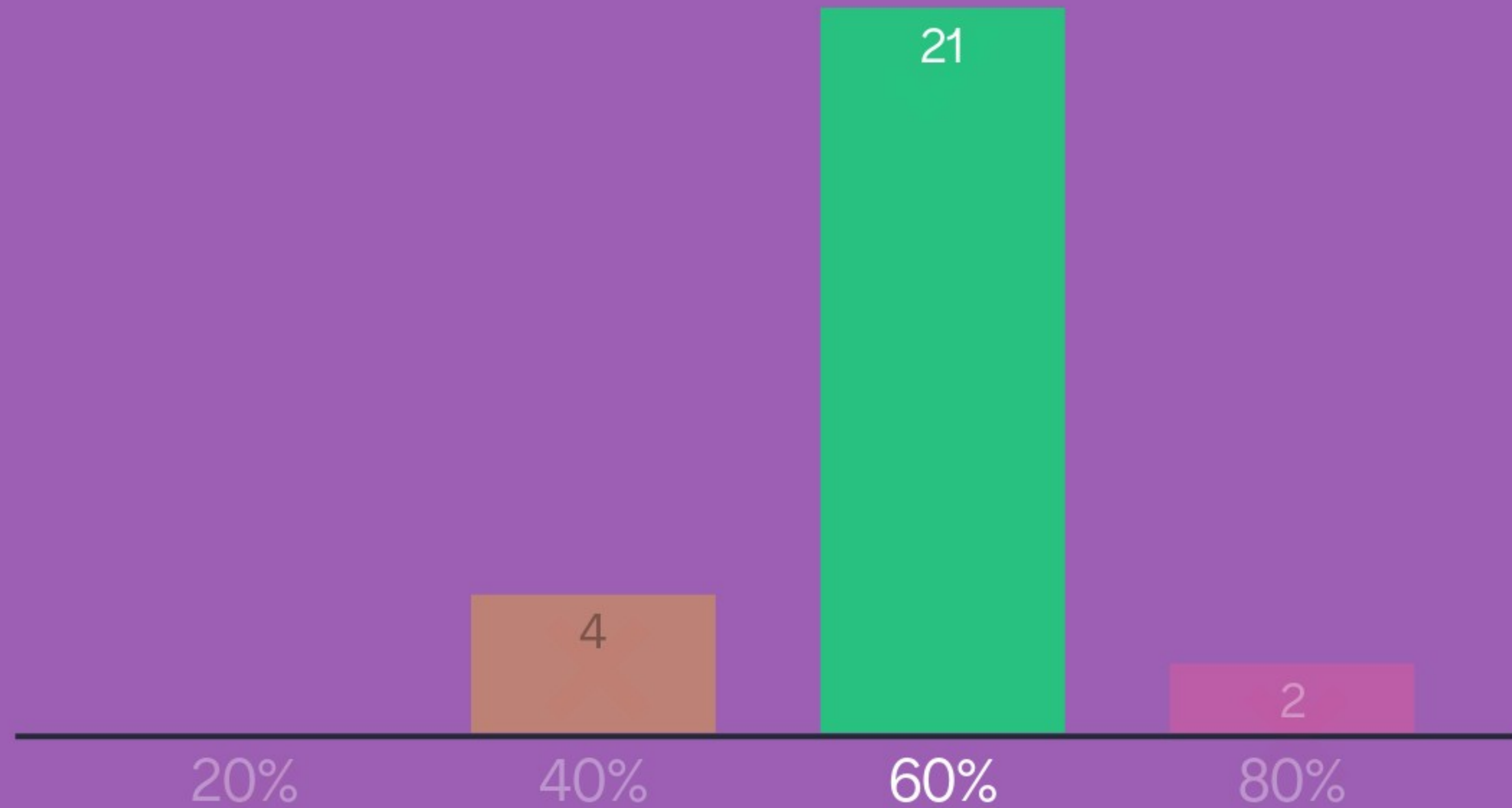
Non-repayable support

Available to anyone with a physical disability, long-standing medical condition/ illness, sensory impairment, social/ communication impairment, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty which affects their ability to study.

Confusion over what is meant by disability, and poor awareness of a widely available fund, has led to 60% of eligible students missing out on financial support at university



According to the BBC, as a percentage how many DSA entitled students miss out on support?



Disabled Students' Allowances: Over half of eligible students miss out

By Beth Rose
BBC Ouch



According to the ScholarshipHub, how much financial support goes unclaimed each year?

200000



300000



1000000



6000000



50000000



£100000



10,000,000



£10,000



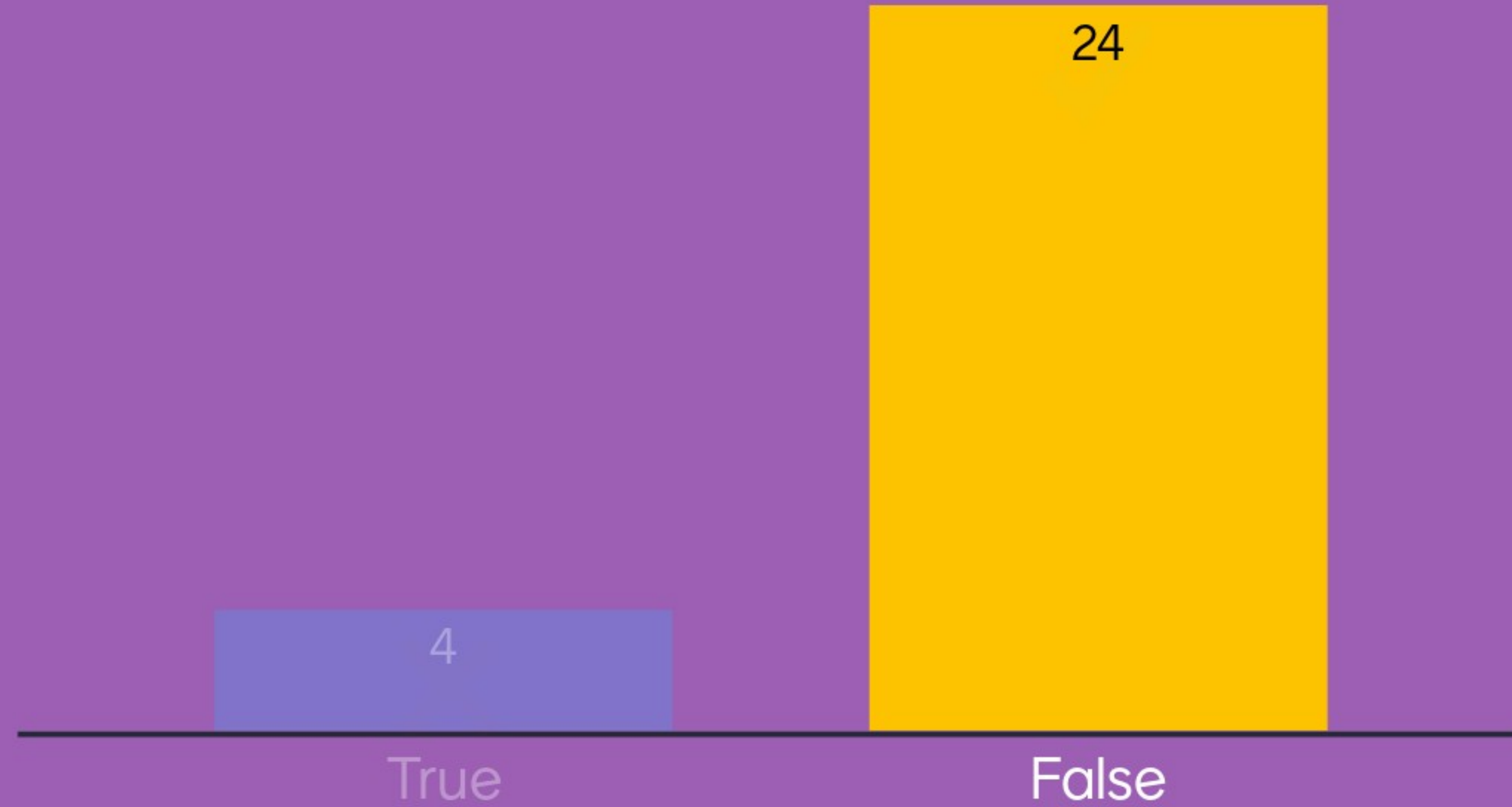
1.5 million



The correct answer is: £150 million



Students need to meet SLC eligibility criteria to be eligible for DSA



How can students apply?

1. At the same time as Student Finance
2. For students not receiving student finance - .GOV website, find the DSA long form, fill it in and send back
3. If student has confirmed their place with us, they can contact the student wellbeing team directly and they can help with the process



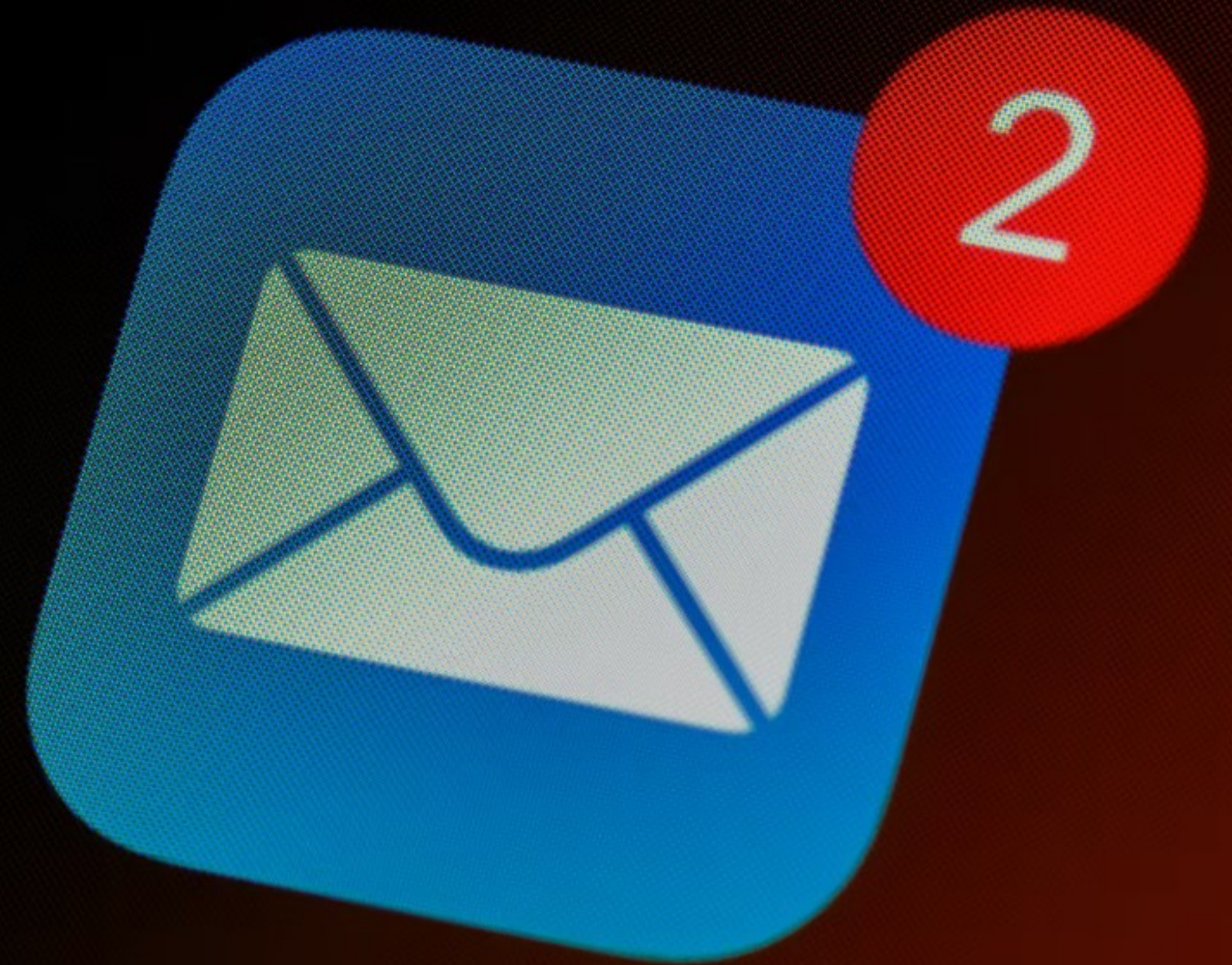
What do they need to apply?

- You will need your Passport, National Insurance Number, Bank details
- A letter, diagnosis or diagnostic assessment from their doctor, consultant, psychologist or specialist teacher that confirms their disability
- SCHOOL/ COLLEGE FORM 8s WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED



What happens after they apply?

- They will be emailed either by Student Finance, The DSA company or the Student Wellbeing team with the next steps.
- Once they have completed the first steps, they will be able to book/ be booked for a DSA study needs assessment.



What is a DSA assessment?

- It is not scary
- It is just a chat with the DSA assessor
- The assessor will talk to them about their condition, how it affects them and what support the DSA and their university can offer
- At Herts the assessment is held on campus within our Student Wellbeing



What support is available through the DSA?

What students receive will be based upon their condition and how it specifically impacts them.

Everyone will get:

- Study needs agreement



What support is available through the DSA?

They could receive:

- Specialist equipment e.g. a computer if you need one because of your disability
- A mentor
- Non-medical helpers, i.e. a note-taker or reader
- Extra travel because of your disability
- Other disability-related costs of studying



What about students who don't think they're eligible for DSA?

- That's completely fine – They can still access our student wellbeing and support services
- They don't need a diagnosis to get an appointment with Student Wellbeing
- Our Student Wellbeing Advisors recommend students still come and see them to see what they can offer
- If they are unsure on if they meet the requirements for a disability, talk to the Student Wellbeing Team



Good to know info

Our student wellbeing team has the ability
to refer you for services

Organise external specialist diagnostic
assessors to help you with a diagnosis for
specific learning difficulties like dyslexia and
dyspraxia (must be a registered student to
access this)

We have our own GP on site who can also
help you with your diagnosis, although you
would need to register with them
at www.herts.ac.uk/medicalcentre/register



A group of five people (three men and two women) are sitting around a table in a meeting room, looking at documents and talking. The room has a wooden railing and large windows in the background. The text is overlaid on this image.

Discuss:
**What does your team/
institution provide in
terms of support?**

TASK:

Imagine a student with a disability,
what questions and thoughts would
they have with regards to HE?

Prospective student with disability profile

- Scared/ uncertain/ anxious
- Unlikely to know about any of the support available at university
- Likely unaware that they will need to instigate the process
- Likely have their parents or teachers act as their mentor or nominated person



Mythbusting

- Disclosing my disability will affect my chances of getting a uni place
- Disclosing my disability will affect my chances of getting a job
- I can't access any other support if I have a DSA
- Other students will bully me if I disclose my disability
- The teachers won't take me seriously if I disclose



How can you help?

- Research and advertise what your institution has to offer
- Advertise the disability support you offer
- Contact your student wellbeing team and collaborate
- Be a friendly face
- Show empathy not sympathy
- If you don't know the answer, be honest
- Keep up to date



Task: To-do list
From this talk, discuss
and make a note of what
you need to do next.



A photograph of three young women in hiking attire standing in a mountainous landscape. The woman on the right is holding a smartphone, and they all appear to be looking at it. The image has a purple overlay.

Thank you!
Any questions?

