

# Aston University Personal Care Guidance

Personal Care is any practical support you may require for daily life, such as:

- Getting up, going to bed, or adjusting position overnight/during the day);
- Washing/bathing and getting dressed;
- Help with eating, drinking or taking medication;
- Using the toilet;
- Domestic activities – cleaning your living area, shopping, preparing meals;
- Leisure or extra-curricular activities;
- Driving or helping you to get around outside study hours;

Personal Care support can also cover the cost of specialist equipment (such as wheelchairs or profiling beds).

The University does not provide support or funding for Personal Care or medical treatment (including medication, medical supplies or mobility equipment) because these things would be required even if you were not a student. Any travel costs to receive medical treatment are also your responsibility.

## Funding and arranging Personal Care support

If you are likely to require any Personal Care support you need to ensure that you have sufficient funding in place in advance of your arrival at the University.

### UK students

The Local Authority in your home town where you are 'ordinarily resident' is responsible for assessing and paying for any social or Personal Care support whilst you are living at university. They can assist with completing applications for financial support through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) or for Personal Independence Payments (PIP), which can help with some of the extra (non-study related) costs caused by a disability. Further information about State Benefits assistance can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

The process can take up to twelve months to arrange so it is important that you start to make plans as soon as you have received your offer (even if it is conditional).

### International students

International students are not eligible for financial assistance with care costs from the British Government, and the University is unable to fund Personal Care support. It is therefore essential that you have included these additional costs in your budget, and that you have sufficient funding in place for the duration of your course before you come to the UK.

Some students might want to bring their own carer with them from their home country. Aston University [Visa Compliance team](#) will be able to give you up to date advice.

The Home Office have information on their [website](#) for domestic workers which includes carers.

International students should establish whether any prescription medication they need is licensed for use in the UK, and if not, how they will get it sent to them. Similarly, they should consider whether it is more cost-effective to ship specialist medical equipment rather than purchase it in the UK.

There are also [specific things](#) to consider if you want to bring an assistance dog with you; they should be considered alongside our Assistance Dog Guidance document.

It might be difficult for you to visit Aston University before your course starts so it is important that you contact the [Enabling Team](#) as soon as possible so we can find out more about what support you might need.

If your carer will require their own accommodation in the same building you should also explore whether your accommodation provider can provide this and what the associated costs might be.

The accommodation on campus is owned and managed by [Unite](#) but we can liaise with them about any adaptations that may be required to your room.