

FAQs – Advice for Station Training and Development Officers.

How can I recognise dyslexia?

Without any training the simple answer is you can't as it is very hard to distinguish between individuals with poor Basic Skills and those with dyslexia. However, the BDA aligned with the RAF will be providing Dyslexia Awareness training as part of the Admin Trainers' CPD programme and there is a BDA recognised Adult dyslexia checklist on the BDA website. Further advice can be sought from Flt Lt LF at HQ PTC.

What is dyslexia?

According to the BDA 'dyslexia is best described as a combination of abilities and difficulties which affect the learning process in one or more of reading, spelling, writing, and sometimes numeracy/language. Accompanying weaknesses may be identified in areas of speed of processing, short-term memory, sequencing, auditory and/or visual perception, spoken language and motor skills.'

Dyslexia is characterised by an unusual balance of skills and can vary in degree from person to person. To this end, many individuals have difficulty with many seemingly basic skills

Can the RAC NGA 001 vote be used to pay for remedial training?

Yes, if the individual is still under training i.e. on a service course (or OJT - to gain their TATs), in trade trg, JMLC, JOCC. Any individual who has met OPS can use their SLC. However, if the station deems that the individual needs specific training for his job (which involves coping with dyslexia) then the External Training vote can be used.

Where can I find a reputable Educational Psychologist who deals with adults?

Contact the local education authority or Flt Lt LF can supply you with the contact for the BDA. The BDA Dyslexia Handbook, lists all the contacts nation-wide (ISBN 1-872653-21-9) or www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk. The BDA has a network of local dyslexia associations who are a good source of information for local educational psychologists and specialist dyslexia tutors.

Where can I find information on remedial training?

Depending on how serious the Specific Learning Difficulty is, the individual will need different types of remedial training or support. For the majority of adults with mild dyslexia, understanding their learning styles and developing coping

strategies may be enough for them to move forward. Advice on coping strategies can be gained from Flt Lt LF and often can be covered with the individual by the STDO.

With moderate to severe difficulties, help from a specialist tutor is beneficial or even essential, or sometimes the local college will run free evening classes (DfEE funded) for adults with learning difficulties. Currently, there is a push for those teachers in further education who are teaching Basic Skills to become trained in helping those with specific learning difficulties. Always check the tutor's experience of working with individuals with specific learning difficulties.

Where can I find information for Line Managers and Instructors?

Information on learning styles and coping strategies will be part of the one day training course for STDOs. Information for Line Managers and Instructors is also available on the web and in the form of a leaflet.

Is dyslexia a medical problem?

Dyslexia is not a medical condition but it is an hereditary and genetic disorder. There is no recognised cure for dyslexia but there are coping strategies that can be learnt to help dyslexics overcome the problems dyslexia can cause.

How can individuals purchase CD-ROM software in support of Dyslexia?

Software is provided in the Learning Centres. An individual can use their SLC to purchase CD-ROM training material in support of dyslexia. However, in order to claim they must have a letter from their Flight Commander, 6 months after the purchase of the CD-ROM, which states that since the purchase of the CD-ROM the individual has been using the training package effectively

Who can administer DAST?

DAST can be administered by any Admin Trg Officer and also by any other individual acting in that capacity providing they have received training in DAST with approval from Flt Lt LF at HQ PTC.

Where can I find support overseas?

020 7223 1144: contact for individuals overseas who have been trained by Hornsby Dyslexia Institute. www.hornsby.co.uk. More contacts can be found on the Resources page.

International Contacts:

0208 770 0888: <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/wdnf>

+410 296 0232:

www.interdys.org

Where can I get further information?

- HQ PTC
Fit Lt LF
Ext. 5455
flf@learning-forces.org.uk
- www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk
- Local Education Authority
- Local Colleges
- BDA Help line: 0118 966 2677