

# Pro-Study SFE Justification Guide and DSA Support Table

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## Pro-Study Students

1. Students with SpLDs, including dyslexia and dyspraxia, those with AD(H)D, Autism Spectrum conditions, brain injuries, and other conditions which impact on a student's ability to organise information.
2. Students who find the amount of information they need to work with overwhelming, for instance, those with SpLDs, ASC, AD(H)D and mental health conditions, especially anxiety and some more complex mental health conditions where anxiety is a factor. The way that information is easily collected and categorised from multiple sources by using coloured topics makes work much less stressful and more approachable as Pro-Study encourages a more thematic approach.
3. Any condition where concentration or fatigue is a factor, including many mental health conditions where students are distracted by intrusive thoughts, many medical conditions (including those where pain makes it hard to concentrate on study), and SpLDs, AD(H)D, ASC, etc. The ability to categorise from an early stage helps to provide a focus, and will help students to regain their train of thought if they need to take a break from study.
4. Similarly, categorisation into topic areas can make research material seem less overwhelming as information can be arranged easily into more manageable 'chunks'. This can help maintain motivation which is often an issue for students with depression, AD(H)D and SpLDs.
5. Also, 'getting started' with written work and making the transition from research to composition is much easier with Pro-Study because of the categorisation. Again, this is useful for students with difficulties organising thoughts and remaining focused – those with SpLDs (especially dyspraxia), AD(H)D, ASC, various mental health conditions, and others who experience fatigue and concentration difficulties, whether through pain or other distractions will find this beneficial.

## Successful Needs Assessment Justification Examples

- Pro-Study. By using this software to collect, organise and reference research material NAME should be less overwhelmed when she needs to manage resources relating to research and coursework. The software allows a user to easily collect quotes and other information, colour coding details under relevant topics. Pro-Study projects can then be exported into full reports.

- **“Pro-Study.** For NAME, taking notes is laborious due to fatigue and weakness. To reduce note-taking and help her relocate specific material, she highlights or sticky-notes a lot, and also applies colour coding. However, notes then have to be typed still. Because of these things, Pro-Study is recommended. With this the student might apply a variety of colour coded highlights, to indicate themes in what she reads. Highlighting instead of writing or typing notes counteracts some of the time lost to her condition. To support the preparation of notes for lesson planning / segregation into sections of a portfolio, the colour coded information may then be extracted and collated into ‘projects’, which can be labelled by topic or as sub-topics. The ‘project’ data, which includes references also enables the incorporation of research notes into other documents.
- Portfolio development and lesson planning in particular require NAME to make and compile notes from multiple resources. In the case of the latter, as she delivers lessons to low, mid and high ability pupils, different sections of text may need to be compiled several times, depending on the information she needs to collate based on pupil ability. With Pro-Study, as an alternative to cutting and pasting or having to re-type information, excerpts from a host of online or scanned source material can be collated and regrouped as required.”
- Pro-Study has been recommended for further reasons than referencing, it is a dedicated research tool with features to make the collection and organisation of important information easier and a searchable centralised database. During assessment ‘name’ mentioned that organization and concentration can be particularly problematic whilst researching. I would suggest ‘name’ uses Pro-Study in order to organise, manage and complete research activities: ‘name’ will be able to quickly capture important information from web pages, academic reports, websites and journals. Having a set place for collation of research materials will reduce effort needed to organise research materials independently. ‘name’ has difficulty doing this herself as a consequence of poor organisation Research can be categorised into personalised coded topics to serves as a central depository for relevant research materials. Having a central colour coded depository will reduce aforementioned difficulties with concentration as the structure is in place and can be utilised when needed. Collating relevant reading materials within an academic report/website/PDF file will reduce the need for ‘name’ to stop in order to collect quotes onto a secondary source. ‘name’ will be able to use this software programme to directly change the background colour of windows she is working in. ‘name’ will therefore be able to change the background colour to Yellow – this will reduce problems associated with visual stress. Research materials can be exported directly to a Word document and/or Mindmap in order to support composition.

## DSA Support Table

Student	Pro-Study
Short term memory issues	Allows concepts/references to be quickly stored before memory issues impede learning.
Long term memory issues	Dedicated Centralised database - Allows easy access to previously gathered research materials in order to quickly find appropriate materials and secure learning rather than having multiple unorganised Word documents, bookmarks and files.
Difficulties with organisation	Integrates organisation/archiving into the research workflow. Colour coding encourages a thematic approach, linking themes to visual cues (colour).
Slow reading speed/reading comprehension	Assists in the prioritisation of key points, ultimately reducing overall text volume. Preview interface function also addresses this issue.
Sequencing issues	Reduces the number of steps/cognition needed to cut, paste, and store research and references.
Visual learner	Use of colour encourages multi-sensory approach, linking colours with content.
Needs a simple solution	Easy workflow allows user dedicate cognition towards understanding research content and not the acquisition/storage process.
Self conscious	Integrates with other programmes subtly and discretely.
Difficulty prioritising	Allows the student to 'cherry pick' research at source, eliciting key information early in the research process.
Lacks confidence in decision making	Bookmark function allows for storage and review of information before committing information to a topic category.
Time management issues	Key information is quickly captured and categorised. Date and time is displayed with captured text.
Needs to access information in numerous locations (at home, library, in dyslexia tuition sessions)	Export to cloud function allows access to research from any computer or device with an internet connection.
Difficulty in remembering rules and conventions (referencing)	Numerous referencing conventions can be applied and customised.
Has issues with scotopic sensitivity	Includes fully customisable colour overlay.