



National Leadership  
and Innovation Agency  
for Healthcare

Asiantaeth Genedlaethol  
Arwain ac Arloesi mewn  
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**Supporting NHS Wales** *to deliver world class healthcare*  
**Cefnogi GIG Cymru** *i gyflwyno gofal iechyd o safon fyd-eang*

# Financial Help for Healthcare Students in Wales

Further copies of this booklet may be obtained from:

NHS Wales Student Awards Unit  
3rd Floor  
14 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
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A Welsh Language version of this booklet is also available on request from the above address.

Tel: 029 2019 6167 (Bursary Enquiries)

Tel: 029 2019 6168 (Childcare Enquiries)

# **FINANCIAL HELP FOR HEALTHCARE STUDENTS IN WALES**

**SEPTEMBER 2010**



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## **DISCLAIMER**

Students and prospective students should not rely on the current NHS bursary rules and allowances when planning for subsequent academic years as these may be subject to review in the future and as a result may be liable to change.

The Welsh Assembly Government and NHS Wales Student Awards Unit will accept no responsibility for loss of any type however suffered by students who have relied on current rules and allowances in altering their circumstances (including but not limited to financial circumstances), whether for the current academic year, academic year to begin or indeed for subsequent academic years.

# 1. INTRODUCTION

If you are considering a professional career in health care and would like to know more about the financial support you will get during your training, then this booklet is for you.

**It provides information and guidance for students who start an NHS funded health professional course from 1 September 2010 onwards.** This booklet is for guidance only, it cannot cover all individual circumstances, and you may need to get more details from your college - that is, the institution where you plan to study.

The NHS Bursary package differs from the support available to non-NHS students who are supported through the student loan arrangements. It is therefore important that students considering health care professional training refer to this booklet, and not student loan publications, with the exception of medical and dental students who should refer to student loan information in the earlier part of their training.

To qualify for NHS financial support, you must be accepted for an NHS funded place on a full or part-time course which leads to professional registration as a:

- chiroprapist (including podiatrist), dietitian, occupational therapist, physiotherapist, radiographer, healthcare scientist, paramedic, speech and language therapist<sup>1</sup> (see Section 3)
- dental hygienist or dental therapist<sup>2</sup> (see Section 3)
- nurse or midwife (see Section 4)

- doctor or dentist (you will be eligible for an NHS Bursary during the later stages of your pre-registration training (see Section 3))

If your course leads to a professional registration in one of these professions and your place is funded by the NHS, you may be eligible for an NHS Bursary even if you have already had public funding for higher education. If you have previously had an NHS Bursary and wish to switch professions, you may be eligible.

Bursaries are not intended for first level nurses and midwives seeking a second registration in nursing or midwifery, or for registered health care professionals wishing to undertake post registration training courses.

For example, if you are a state registered adult nurse seeking to complete a branch programme in mental health nursing you would not be entitled to a Bursary, but you could approach your employer to see if they are prepared to fund the training.

You can get a Bursary for a course starting at any time which leads to conversion from a second (EN) to a first level nurse, provided that you have not worked as a nurse for a year or more.

This booklet is about the support you can get if you attend a nursing, midwifery, dental auxiliary or Allied Health Professional course, in **Wales**, regardless of where you live in the UK. If you attend a course in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland,

1 These professions are widely known as the AHPs, which is an abbreviation for Allied Health Professions. They were formerly known as Professions Allied to Medicine (PAMs)

2 These professions are part of the Professions Complementary to Dentistry (PCD)

broadly comparable arrangements will apply, but you will need to consult the relevant national authorities (see Section 6) for details.

Welsh domiciled medical and dental students are supported through the NHS Bursary Scheme during the later stages of their training irrespective of which home country their medical school is situated in. Medical and dental students domiciled in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland need to consult the relevant national authorities (see Section 6).

### **Personal Eligibility**

Your personal eligibility depends on what course you are undertaking and where you live.

You will not be eligible for a NHS Bursary if you are an assisted (seconded) student. This means that your total income in any year from scholarships and employment (minus income tax and social security contributions) exceeds the maximum bursary (i.e. total allowances plus tuition fee), that would otherwise be payable.

### **The Residence Conditions**

These notes explain the main eligibility conditions all students need to meet in order to receive an NHS Bursary.

To be eligible for NHS bursary support all students, regardless of nationality, must be able to satisfy all of the following three requirements on the first day of the first academic year of the course<sup>3</sup>:

1. Applicants must have been ordinarily resident in the United

Kingdom and Islands throughout the three years preceding the above date, and;

2. Be ordinarily resident in any UK country on the above date and;

3. Be settled in the United Kingdom under the terms of the Immigration Act 1971. (In other words, you must be ordinarily resident here without being subject to any restriction on the period for which you may stay).

### **Ordinary Residence**

‘Ordinary Residence’ is defined as habitual and normal residence from choice and for a settled purpose throughout the prescribed period, apart from temporary or occasional absences.

### **Exceptions**

If you do not meet the rules for residence in the UK, and your course is an NHS funded course, you may still be eligible for a NHS Bursary. This may apply if you, your spouse, civil partner or your parents are:

- Recognised by the British Government as a refugee and you (or your spouse, civil partner or parent) have remained ordinarily resident in the UK since this status was granted.

<sup>3</sup> This is the period of 12 months starting as follows – 1 September for courses starting between 1 September and 31 December; 1 January for courses starting between 1 January and 31 March; 1 April for courses starting between 1 April and 30 June and 1 July for courses starting between 1 July and 31 August.

- An EEA National, (but not a UK or Swiss national), who has ‘migrant worker’ status and has been ordinarily resident in the EEA or Switzerland for three years before the first day of the first academic year of your course and is ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of the course.
- Non UK EU Nationals and their children who satisfy the three-year residence criterion in the UK and Islands will be treated as if they were UK students and be eligible for support for both maintenance and fees. They are not required to have settled status. If their residence in the UK was mainly for the purpose of full-time higher education, they may still be eligible for an NHS Bursary (maintenance grant and tuition fee) if they can show that they were ordinarily resident in an EEA country or Switzerland immediately prior to their period of ordinary residence in the UK.
- Someone who has been granted Exceptional Leave, Humanitarian Protection or Discretionary Leave, to enter or stay in the UK by the Home Office. You must meet the three-year ordinary residence requirement in this country but the settled status requirement will not apply to you.
- EU students who do not have EEA migrant worker status and who are not ordinarily resident in the UK under the terms described, may be awarded an “EU Fees Only” award, under which they will have the cost of their tuition fees met but they will not be eligible for a student loan, hardship funds or the maintenance element of the NHS Bursary.

## **Asylum Seekers**

If you are an asylum seeker in the UK, you will not be eligible for NHS student support unless you have been officially granted settled or refugee status by the UK Border Agency of the Home Office.

## **Refugees**

If the Home Office has granted you refugee status, you will be eligible for NHS bursary support providing you are ordinarily resident in the UK on the first day of the first academic year of your course and have had continuous residence since first being granted this status.

## **Limited Leave to Enter or Remain as a Student**

If you are currently in the UK on a student visa, you will not be eligible for an NHS Bursary as you will not have the necessary immigration status.

## **Students from the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man**

You will not normally be eligible for an NHS Bursary if you are ordinarily resident in one of the British Islands, e.g. the Channel Islands or the Isle of Man, and you intend to study in the UK.

## **Temporary employment outside the UK**

If you were away from this country because you or your family were temporarily employed abroad, you may be treated as if your residence in the UK had not been interrupted.

## **Armed forces and family members**

Members of the regular armed forces serving abroad and members of their close families are treated as living in the UK. If you were away from this country during all or part of the three-year period because you or one of your parents, spouse or civil partner were serving abroad as an active member of the regular armed forces (the army, navy or air force) you, your parent, spouse or civil partner will be treated as having been temporarily employed overseas during that period. This will not prevent you from being eligible for an NHS Bursary.

## **Prospective Students**

**If you are thinking of taking any of the health professional courses listed in Section 1 and you are not sure whether you are eligible for NHS funding, contact the university you are hoping to go to. They should be able to help you in the first instance.**



## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

**2.1** A Bursary is an annual payment awarded to cover your day to day living costs whilst you are studying. You will receive the total amount awarded as Income Tax and National Insurance contributions are not deducted. Students receive a Bursary in each year of their training, normally paid monthly.

In addition to the standard Bursary other allowances are available including:

- Extra Weeks'
- Dependants' Allowance
- Childcare
- Parent Learning Allowance
- Disabled Students' Allowance
- Practice Placement Costs

**2.2** Unless you are on a nursing or midwifery course you may be entitled to a **reduced rate student loan** to help with your living costs. Paragraph 3.2.3 gives more information.

**2.3** Students who find themselves in exceptional financial difficulty may be able to get extra help - see paragraph 3.2.4 for more information.

**2.4** There are two types of NHS Bursary:

**Non-means tested:** available for nursing and midwifery courses.

This provides a flat rate basic maintenance grant. No contribution is required from your income or that of your family.

**Means tested:** available for all courses other than nursing and midwifery.

This means that where appropriate your income, and that of your parents, your spouse, civil partner or partner<sup>4</sup> may be taken into account, and the amount of maintenance grant will be reduced in proportion to that income.

Various sources of income - including, for example, your casual earnings while you are a full-time student - are ignored in whole or in part. Contributions by parents, spouse, civil partner or partner is calculated on the level of residual income (normally in the tax year before the start of your academic year\*) following tax deductible allowances.

**If your parents, spouse, civil partner or partner do not complete the necessary forms, you cannot receive the NHS Bursary nor can the NHS undertake to make good any defaults in an assessed contribution.**

If you are independent of your parents, no parental contribution will be assessed, but a spouse, civil partner or partner's contribution may still be applicable. Dependant's allowance is means tested for all students.

**Your college will assess your non-means tested bursary and the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit will assess your means tested bursary.**

4 Partner means a person you live with as if you are married, or in a civil partnership.

\* Academic years are regarded as the period of 12 months starting on 1 September, 1 January, 1 April or 1 July depending on when your course starts.

## Independent Students

A student is deemed to be independent of their parents if they meet any one of the criteria in the following list:

- You have care of a dependent child or children on the first day of the academic year in which you are applying for a bursary.
- You have been married or have entered into a civil partnership before the start of the academic year for which you are applying for a bursary.
- You have no living parents.
- You have supported yourself from your own earnings for a total of at least 36 months before the start of the first academic year of your course. This includes:

Periods of employment (either part or full time),

Periods where you were unemployed and/or in receipt of benefits or on a relevant training course for unemployed people,

Periods for which you were receiving a pension, allowance or other benefit paid because of a disability or by reason of confinement, injury or sickness

Periods for which you were in receipt of moneys resulting from a state studentship (e.g. because you were undertaking a PhD or other research degree)

**Please note that we will disregard any moneys you received from a local authority student loan, as this cannot be classed as income from your own earnings.**

- Your parents live abroad and an assessment would put them in danger (this may apply if you are a refugee for example).
- You are in the care of a local authority or voluntary organisation, or are under a custodianship order on your 18th birthday or immediately before your course if you are not 18 when it begins.

**If none of the above criteria apply to you, you will be classed as a dependent student and your bursary will be assessed against the income of your parent(s).**

## **2.5 Change of Circumstances**

It is your responsibility to tell your college or the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit of any change in your or your family's financial circumstances, so that if necessary your Bursary can be reassessed. You must also tell the college or the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit if you have to terminate or interrupt your studies before the normal completion date.

If you abandon or suspend your studies your Bursary award will be recalculated based on the actual number of days in attendance and you will be required to repay any monies received that exceeds your actual entitlement.

## **3. THE MEANS TESTED BURSARY**

### **3.1.1 Arrangements for Medical and Dental Students**

**Providing you satisfy the residence criteria, medical and dental students may be eligible for NHS funded support. To check your eligibility please read the notes in Section 1.**

**3.1.2** Pre-registration medical and dental students attending the accelerated four-year graduate entry programme will be eligible for NHS Bursaries for years 2–4 of their course. Medical and dental students undertaking 5-6 year undergraduate courses will be eligible for NHS Bursaries for their fifth and subsequent years of study. (If you are domiciled in England, Scotland or Northern Ireland you will need to consult the relevant national authorities (See section 6).

### **3.1.3 Intercalation**

Intercalation is taken into account for funding purposes. Students who intercalate will be eligible for funding from the 5th year of their period of study, irrespective of which year they intercalate.

### **3.1.4 Accelerated and Shortened Courses**

Graduates who are on shortened courses, other than the 4 year graduate entry programme will follow the same funding arrangements as for students undertaking the 5-6 year undergraduate course.

## **3.2 Arrangements for students on AHPs and PCD courses**

You must ensure that your college has offered you an NHS funded place on one of the courses listed in Section 1 and that

you satisfy the residence criteria. To check your eligibility please read Section 1.

### **3.2.1 How much is the NHS Bursary?**

The means tested Bursary is made up of an allowance to cover day to day living costs, and, dependent on individual circumstances, additional allowances. These are explained in detail below.

The basic rates are shown in the following table.

	<b>AMOUNT PER YEAR</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>£3,392</b>
<b>Elsewhere</b>	<b>£2,810</b>
<b>Parent's home</b>	<b>£2,346</b>

### **3.2.2 Allowances**

An allowance is an extra payment on your Bursary. You may be eligible for payment as follows:

#### **Extra Weeks' Attendance**

Most health professional students have longer academic years than other students. You can get an allowance for each extra week above a set limit that you must attend the course in the academic year. The limit is currently 30 weeks. The amount you will get for each additional week is:

<b>RATE</b>	<b>AMOUNT PER EXTRA WEEK</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>£106</b>
<b>Elsewhere</b>	<b>£82</b>
<b>Parent's home</b>	<b>£54</b>

If you have to attend the course for more than 45 weeks in any continuous 12 month period, you will get an allowance for all 52 weeks of the year.

### **Dependants' Allowances**

These are payable to you for people who are wholly or mainly financially dependent on you during your time in training. Your spouse or civil partner, your children and other adults can be counted. The income of all your dependants, your spouse, civil partner or your partner, net of allowable deductions, is taken into account in deciding if you are eligible for the allowance.

The following table shows the current rates.

	<b>AMOUNT PER YEAR (COVERS 52 WEEKS)</b>
<b>SPOUSE, CIVIL PARTNER or PARTNER</b> (or other adult dependant, or first child if there are no spouse, civil partner or adult dependants)	<b>£2,640</b>
<b>CHILD</b>	<b>£539</b>

## **Childcare Allowance**

This allowance is available to students with dependent children aged 14 or under, or aged 16 and under for children with special educational needs, on the first day of the academic year. As this allowance is subject to means-testing, the level of support you receive will be dependent upon your individual circumstances.

The childcare must be provided by a 'registered' or 'approved' childcare provider. The allowance pays up to 85% of your actual childcare costs to a maximum weekly amount.

An information sheet explaining the Childcare Allowance in more detail is available from your college or the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit.

## **Parent Learning Allowance**

This allowance, currently £1303 over 52 weeks, may be payable if you are a student who has a dependent child or children. The income of all your dependants, your spouse, civil partner or your partner, net of allowable deductions, is taken into account in deciding if you are eligible for the allowance.

## **Practice Placement Costs**

Normal daily travel between your home and college is not reimbursed. However, part of your course will include practice placements which will involve you training in hospitals or community health services rather than in a classroom. The cost of journeys between your term-time residence and a practice placement site, which is not part of your college, can be reimbursed, although this may be subject to a travel disregard

where your grant entitlement is nil. You can claim the costs within the UK of travel to and from your placement site involving:

- Public transport (including carriage of luggage and bicycles)
- Essential use of your own motor vehicle (including official passengers who must be named NHS Wales Bursary holders)
- Use of your own bicycle, and
- Parking, tolls and ferries.

You should use the cheapest form of transport available for your journeys, taking full advantage of any free and concessionary schemes. If you choose to use your own vehicle, you should claim public transport fares if these are lower. If public transport is unavailable or unsuitable for placement travel, you may use your own motor vehicle. In either case you must get authority, in advance of your placement, from your college to do so. You will also need to get confirmation from your insurers that you have adequate cover for all costs and claims and that no liability is placed on your college or any NHS body, and notify your college accordingly.

If you incur additional residential accommodation costs while attending a clinical placement, by way of retaining the accommodation you use at your college; and paying for the accommodation you use while on clinical placement, you may claim the lesser of the costs reasonably incurred instead of the

costs of daily travel between your college and placement accommodation. You may also claim the cost of up to one weekly return journey between your college and placement address.

If you have to move to London or from your parents' home to lodgings to attend a placement, your basic maintenance grant will also be temporarily increased if appropriate.

**Your college will advise you on how to claim your practice placement costs.**

### **Disabled Students' Allowances**

It is important to let your college know immediately if you have a disability, and need extra help or equipment to complete your course. Early notification is recommended, as the processing of claims can take some time. You will be asked to provide evidence of the nature and severity of your disability and to produce evidence of a recent assessment. If your disability has not recently been assessed, an assessment should be undertaken by a suitably qualified person. You are expected to meet the costs of establishing a claim for disability, but any costs associated with identifying your course-related needs will be met on your behalf. This information will be treated as confidential. No contribution will be required from your income or your family's towards this allowance.

This allowance is intended to cover the extra costs you incur while training as a result of a disability. It is not intended to pay the disability related costs that you would have incurred in any case.

There are four elements to cover different areas of need:

1. The non-medical helper's allowance - to help you pay for helpers, such as sign language interpreters or note-takers;
2. The specialist equipment allowance - for major items of specialist equipment, eg a computer;
3. The travel allowance - for travel costs reasonably and necessarily incurred due to your disability;
4. The other costs allowance - to cover any costs related to your disability and study eg Braille paper or books and tapes, that are not covered by the other allowances. It can also be used to top up the other allowances. The following table shows the current rates.

<b>ALLOWANCE</b>	<b>MAXIMUM AMOUNT</b>
<b>Helper</b>	<b>£ 20,520 per year</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	<b>£5,162 for the duration of the course</b>
<b>Travel</b>	<b>Actual reasonably and necessarily incurred</b>
<b>Other Costs</b>	<b>£ 1,724 per year</b>

## OTHER HELP

### Student Loans

**3.2.3** You may be entitled to a reduced rate student loan to cover the balance of your living costs. NHS means tested Bursaries are not intended to meet all your maintenance requirements, so you are encouraged to consider carefully whether you will need a reduced rate loan to avoid hardship during your course. You should apply, via your local authority (LA), for a reduced rate loan before the course starts. The LA will tell the Student Loans Company the maximum loan to which you are entitled. You can then decide how much of the available loan, if any, you want. Your LA will be happy to give you more detailed advice.

### Hardship Funds

**3.2.4** If, having taken up your full entitlement to a Bursary and loan, you find you are still in financial difficulty, you can apply to your college, or to your students' union, for information on help in the form of hardship funds.

### Council Tax and Benefits

**3.2.5** Full-time students are either exempt from Council Tax or are entitled to discount disregards. In exceptional circumstances, you may be eligible for Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit and social security benefits. You should seek advice about this from your local authority or Benefits Agency office.

## Child Tax Credit

**3.2.6** This is available for all families with children, including students. NHS Students with dependent children may also be entitled to receive Dependants' Allowance through the NHS Bursary Scheme, in addition to the Child Tax Credit.

### How do I apply for a Bursary?

**3.2.7** When you have been offered an NHS funded place, your college will advise the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit of the offer. The Unit will send you an initial application form. On receipt of your completed initial application form, you will be sent a financial assessment form in order that your Bursary entitlement can be calculated. Once this has been completed you will be sent a grant notification letter advising you of the level of your award, any parental, civil partner, partner or spouse contribution and any contribution to travel.

### How do I receive payment of my Bursary?

**3.2.8** The payment of bursary will be made directly to you each month by your College. Your college will be able to give you more detail about the timing and method of payment.

## Residual Income

**3.2.9** This is the amount of declared income used to determine the contribution (if any) to your award. To calculate this, the parent(s)/step-parent/spouse/civil partner/partner's gross taxable income for the previous financial year is used. (For the 2010/11 academic year, the applicable financial year will be the period running from 6 April 2009 to 5 April 2010). Certain allowable expenses are then deducted from this to give the 'residual income':

## **Income and Expenditure used to determine Residual Income and Contributions**

### **Types of Taxable Income used:**

- Gross Salary / wages
- Taxable Allowances (e.g. company car, essential car users allowance, fuel allowance, private health care)
- Income from Self Employment or Company directorship
- Income from Land, Property or Furnished Lettings
- Pensions (including State retirement, occupational, private and widow(er)s pensions)
- Bank or Building Society Interest
- Other unearned income (such as dividends)
- Taxable Benefits (Job Seekers Allowance, Income support, Incapacity Benefit, Bereavement Allowance etc.)

### **Deductible Expenses used to offset against declared income**

- Employee Pension Contributions
- Personal Pension / Retirement Annuity payments
- Professional subscriptions and other tax relievable expenses

## Contribution Rates

**3.2.10** The table below can be used to give you an idea as to how much your parent(s) or spouse/partner/civil partner will be expected to contribute to your bursary, based on their residual income. You should note that a ‘contribution’ is NOT a direct payment that your spouse/parent/civil partner/partner will be required to make – instead, this is the amount that will be deducted from your basic NHS Bursary entitlement at source.

<b>Contribution rates for parents(s), spouse, civil partner, partner</b>			
<b>If the Residual income is:</b>	<b>Contribution will be:</b>	<b>If the Residual income is:</b>	<b>Contribution will be:</b>
Under £24,279	Nil	£65,000	£4,331
£24,279	£45	£67,500	£4,594
£25,000	£120	£70,000	£4,857
£27,500	£384	£72,500	£5,120
£30,000	£647	£75,000	£5,384
£32,500	£910	£77,500	£5,647
£35,000	£1,173	£80,000	£5,910
£37,500	£1,436	£82,500	£6,173
£40,000	£1,699	£85,000	£6,436
£42,500	£1,963	£87,500	£6,699
£45,000	£2,226	£90,000	£6,963
£47,500	£2,489	£92,500	£7,226
£50,000	£2,752	£95,000	£7,489
£52,500	£3,015	£97,500	£7,752
£55,000	£3,278	£98,000	£7,805
£57,500	£3,541	£98,500	£7,857
£60,000	£3,805	£99,000	£7,910
£62,500	£4,068	£99,833	£7,998 (max)



## 4. THE NON-MEANS TESTED BURSARY

### Arrangements for students on Nursing and Midwifery Courses

You must ensure that your college has offered you an NHS funded place on a course leading to registration as a nurse or a midwife. This includes a course starting at any time which leads to conversion from a second (EN) to a first level nurse, if you have not worked as a nurse for a year or more. To check your eligibility please read Section 1.

**4.1** You will not be eligible for an NHS Bursary if you are an **assisted student**. This means that your total income in any year from scholarships and employment (minus income tax and social security contributions) exceeds the maximum Bursary that would otherwise be payable.

**4.2** You will not be eligible for an NHS funded Bursary if you are ordinarily resident in one of the British Islands (ie, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man) and you move to the UK for the purpose of receiving full-time education.

**4.3** Nursing and midwifery students are not currently eligible for student loans, but you can apply to your college or students' union, for information on help in the form of hardship funds.

## How much is the NHS Non-Means tested Bursary?

**4.4** The basic rates are shown in the following table:

	<b>AMOUNT PER YEAR</b>
<b>London</b>	<b>£7,827</b>
<b>Elsewhere</b>	<b>£6,701</b>
<b>Parent's home</b>	<b>£6,701</b>

### Allowances

**4.5** An allowance is an extra payment on your Bursary. You may be eligible for payment as follows:

#### Extra Weeks' Attendance

Your basic Bursary rate is already set on the assumption that you will be required to attend for 45 weeks a year. However, if you have to move to London to attend a practice placement, your basic maintenance grant will be temporarily increased by **£17.00** a week.

#### Dependants' Allowances

These are payable to you for people who are wholly or mainly financially dependent on you during your time in training. Your spouse or civil partner, your children and other adults can be counted. The income of all your dependants, your spouse, civil partner or partner, net of allowable deductions, is taken into account in deciding if you are eligible for the allowance.

As the circumstances are different for each individual, you are

advised to consult your college for further guidance.

The following table shows the rates.

	<b>AMOUNT £ PER YEAR (COVERS 52 WEEKS)</b>
<b>SPOUSE, CIVIL PARTNER or PARTNER</b> (or other adult dependant, or first child if there are no spouse, civil partner or adult dependants)	<b>£2,238</b>
<b>CHILD</b>	<b>£539</b>

### **Childcare Allowance**

Nursing and midwifery students can apply for childcare costs. Please refer to Section 3 which explains this allowances in more detail.

### **Parent Learning Allowance**

This allowance, currently £1,104 over 52 weeks, may be payable if you are a student who has a dependent child or children. The income of all your dependants, your spouse, civil partner or your partner, net of allowable deductions, is taken into account in deciding if you are eligible for the allowance.

### **Initial Expenses Allowance**

This is a one-off payment of £55, made at the start of your course.

## Practice Placement Costs

Normal daily travel between your home and college is not reimbursed. However, part of your course will include practice placements which will involve you training in hospitals or community health services rather than in a classroom. The cost of journeys between your term-time residence and a practice placement site, which is not part of your college, can be reimbursed. You can claim the costs within the UK of travel to and from your placement site involving:

- public transport (including carriage of luggage and bicycles)
- essential use of your own motor vehicle (including official passengers who must be named NHS Bursary holders)
- use of your own bicycle, and
- parking, tolls and ferries.

You should use the cheapest form of transport available for your journeys, taking full advantage of any free and concessionary schemes. If you choose to use your own vehicle, you should claim public transport fares if these are lower. If public transport is unavailable or unsuitable for placement travel, you may use your own motor vehicle. In either case you must get authority, in advance of your placement, from your college to do so. You will also need to get confirmation from your insurers that you have adequate cover for all costs and claims and that no liability is placed on your college or any NHS body, and notify your college accordingly.

If you incur additional residential accommodation costs while attending a clinical placement, by way of retaining the accommodation you use at your college; and paying for the accommodation you use while on clinical placement, you may claim the lesser of the costs reasonably incurred instead of the costs of daily travel between your college and placement site. You may also claim the cost of expenditure of up to one weekly return journey between your college and placement address.

If you have to move to London to attend a placement, your basic maintenance grant will also be temporarily increased if necessary.

### **Your college will advise you on how to claim your clinical placement costs**

#### **Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA)**

Nursing and midwifery students are eligible to apply for DSA. Please refer to Section 3 which explains this allowance in more detail.

#### **4.6 Council Tax and Benefits**

Full-time students are either exempt from Council Tax or are entitled to discount disregards. In exceptional circumstances, you may be eligible for Council Tax Benefit, Housing Benefit and social security benefits. You should seek advice about this from your local authority or Benefits Agency Office.

#### **4.7 Child Tax Credit**

This is available for all families with children, including students. NHS Students with dependent children may also be entitled to receive Dependents' Allowance through the NHS Bursary Scheme, in addition to the Child Tax Credit.



## **5. YOUR QUESTIONS ANSWERED**

### **Q1 What happens if my circumstances change?**

**A1** You should report any change in your financial circumstances (or your family's, where a parental, spouse, civil partner or partner contribution applies) to your college or the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit (SAU) as soon as it occurs. Your Bursary will be immediately reassessed to take account of any impact on your requirements, for example, your spouse leaving the family home, the birth of a child, or the death of a dependant. It is also your responsibility to tell the SAU or your college if you have to leave or interrupt your course before the normal completion date.

### **Q2 Am I entitled to unsocial hours and extra duty payments?**

**A2** No. Your status will be that of a student, not an employee. But you may be eligible for help with practice placement expenses.

### **Q3 Are postgraduate courses funded by the NHS?**

**A3** Yes. Graduates who wish to attend NHS funded courses at DipHE, degree or postgraduate level, which lead to professional registration, are eligible for NHS Bursaries.

### **Q4 How do I apply for a place on one of the nursing, midwifery or AHPs education courses?**

**A4** For information on AHPs and nursing and midwifery courses, contact your local college, National Leadership &

Innovation Agency for Healthcare (NLIAH) or UCAS. For nursing or midwifery diploma courses in England contact NMAS.

**Q5 Will I be eligible for an NHS Bursary if I have already had public funding for higher education?**

**A5** Yes. If your course leads to a professional qualification and your place is funded by the NHS you will be able to get an NHS Bursary. If you have previously had an NHS Bursary and wish to switch professions, you will be eligible - but Bursaries are not intended for first level nurses and midwives seeking a second registration in nursing or midwifery, or for post registration training. You can get a Bursary for a course starting at any time which leads to conversion from a second (EN) to a first level nurse, if you have not worked as a nurse for a year or more.

**Q6 Will I still be eligible for an NHS bursary if I fail my exams and have to undertake a period of repeat study?**

**A6** No. Funding is not normally available for periods of repeat study unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as the death of a family member.

**Q7 How do NHS funding arrangements affect students on medical and dental courses?**

**A7** For the first four years, support for Welsh domiciled students on undergraduate medical and dental courses will be on the same basis as for other higher education students, through their Local Authority. In year 5 and beyond, students will not have to pay tuition fee contributions, and non-repayable bursaries, assessed against the income of the student

and their family, will be available towards maintenance. Students receiving NHS bursaries will have access to reduced rate student loans.

For Welsh domiciled students on the accelerated four year graduate entry medical or dental degree programme, means tested Bursaries and help with tuition fees are available for years two to four of the course. In year one, students will be funded on the same basis as for other higher education students, through their Local Authority.

**Q8 What if I live in Wales and want to attend a medical or dental course in Scotland, England or Northern Ireland?**

**A8** The arrangements described in Q7 will apply to you, regardless of where you study in the UK. The NHS Wales Student Awards Unit will assess and pay your Bursary.

**Q9 What if I live in Wales and want to attend a nursing, midwifery or AHPs course in Scotland, England or Northern Ireland?**

**A9** You will need to consult the relevant national authorities (see section 6) for details.

**Q10 What if I live in Scotland, England or Northern Ireland and want to attend a nursing, midwifery or AHPs course in Wales?**

**A10** The arrangements described in this booklet will apply to you, regardless of where you live in the UK.

**Q11 Where do I find further information about funding for medical and dental courses?**

**A11** You should contact the University of your choice.

**Q12 Am I obliged to work in the NHS when I qualify?**

**A12** No. You will be encouraged and supported to develop at least some of your career in the NHS or in the social care services, but the decision is yours.

**Q13 If I intercalate during my medical/dental course does this count?**

**A13** Yes, intercalated years are counted, irrespective of when they occur during the course. For example, if you intercalate in year 3 of your course then you will be eligible for NHS funding from your 5th year of study (year 4 of the course).

**Q14 What if the place I am offered is not NHS funded?**

**A14** For courses, other than medical or dental ones, student intakes are planned and agreed between the NHS and colleges to reflect future workforce needs. So this will only happen where admissions exceed planned requirements. In that event, you will not be eligible for an NHS Bursary. But that will not affect any entitlement you may have to the support available to other higher education students. For further advice, contact your local authority.

**Q15 Is there any help with childcare costs?**

**A15** Yes. See Section 3 for more details.

### **Q16 How do I apply for the Child Care Allowance?**

**A16** Application forms are available from your college or the NHS Wales Student Awards Unit.

### **Q17 How much Child Care Allowance will I be entitled to?**

**A17** Please see A16.

### **Q18 Will I be eligible to apply for the Child Care Allowance if I am a fees only student?**

**A18** No, if you are a fees only award student you are not eligible for this allowance

### **Q19 Can I receive the Child Care Allowance as well as the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit (WTC) from the Inland Revenue?**

**A19** No. If you, your spouse, civil partner or partner receive the childcare element of the WTC for a child you will not be eligible for the Child Care Allowance element of your NHS Bursary.

### **Q20 Am I eligible to apply for the Child Care Allowance to help with the costs of informal childcare arrangements?**

**A20** No. The childcare must be provided by a registered or approved childcare provider.

*These are just some of the questions you may be wishing to ask. If you have a question that hasn't been answered here you should contact your college in the first instance.*



## 6. FURTHER INFORMATION

You can obtain further information on NHS funded programmes from your college.

Enquiries about financial support may be directed as follows.

For study in **Wales** to

The NHS Wales Student Awards Unit  
3rd Floor  
14 Cathedral Road  
Cardiff  
CF11 9LJ  
029 2019 6167 (Bursary Enquiries)  
029 2019 6168 (Childcare Enquiries)  
[www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk)

For study in **England** to

NHS BSA Student Bursaries  
Hesketh House  
200-220 Broadway  
Fleetwood  
FY7 8SS  
[www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students)

For study in **Scotland** to

The Students Awards Agency for Scotland

Gyle View House

3 Redheughs Rigg

South Gyle

Edinburgh

EH12 9HH

[www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

For study in **Northern Ireland** to

The Department of Employment and Learning:

Training and Employment Student Support Branch

4th Floor, Adelaide House

39-49 Adelaide Street

Belfast

BT2 8FD

[www.delni.gov.uk](http://www.delni.gov.uk)

## Other Contacts

Border and Immigration Agency  
The Home Office  
Lunar House  
40 Wellesley Road  
Croydon CR9 2RR  
[www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk)

National Leadership and Innovation Agency  
for Healthcare (NLIAH)  
Innovation House  
Bridgend Road  
Llanharan  
CF72 9RP  
01443 233 333  
[www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk](http://www.nliah.wales.nhs.uk)

Student Loans Company Ltd  
100 Bothwell Street  
Glasgow  
G2 7JD  
[www.slc.co.uk](http://www.slc.co.uk)

UCAS  
Rosehill  
New Barn Lane  
Cheltenham  
Gloucestershire  
GL52 3LZ  
[www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com)

NHS Careers  
PO Box 376  
Bristol  
BS99 3EY  
[www.nhs.careers.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.careers.nhs.uk)

The National Insurance Contributions Office  
For enquiries relating to NI numbers and contributions  
0845 302 1479

The Society of Chiropractors and Podiatrists  
1 Fellmongers Path  
Tower Bridge Road  
London  
SE1 3LY  
[www.feetforlife.org](http://www.feetforlife.org)

College of Occupational Therapists  
Education and Practice Department  
106/114 Borough High Street  
Southwark  
London SE1 1LB  
[www.cot.co.uk](http://www.cot.co.uk)

The Society of Radiographers  
207 Providence Square  
Mill Street  
London  
SE1 2EW  
[www.sor.org](http://www.sor.org)

Chartered Society of Physiotherapy  
14 Bedford Row  
London  
WC1R 4ED  
[www.csp.org.uk](http://www.csp.org.uk)

College of Operating Department Practitioners  
PO Box 1304  
Wilmslow  
Cheshire  
SK9 5WW  
[www.aodp.org](http://www.aodp.org)

British Association of Prosthetists and Orthotists  
48 Sir James Clark Building  
Abbey Mill Business Centre  
Paisley  
PA1 1TJ  
[www.bapo.com](http://www.bapo.com)

British Academy of Audiology  
PO Box 346  
Peterborough RM  
PE6 7EG  
[www.baaudiology.org](http://www.baaudiology.org)

British Dental Association  
64 Wimpole Street  
London  
W1G 8YS  
[www.bda.org](http://www.bda.org)

British Dental Hygienists' Association  
Mobbs Miller House  
Ardington Road  
Northampton  
NN1 5LP  
[www.bdha.org.uk](http://www.bdha.org.uk)

British Dental Therapists' Association  
92 Mayfield Drive  
Caversham  
Reading  
RG4 5JT  
[www.badt.org.uk](http://www.badt.org.uk)

Royal University of Speech and Language Therapists  
2 White Hart Yard  
London  
SE1 1NX  
[www.rcslt.org](http://www.rcslt.org)

The British Dietetic Association  
5th Floor Charles House  
148-149 Great Charles Street  
Queensway  
Birmingham  
B3 3HT  
[www.bda.uk.com](http://www.bda.uk.com)

British Orthoptic Society  
Tavistock House North  
Tavistock Square  
London  
WC1H 9HX  
[www.orthoptics.org.uk](http://www.orthoptics.org.uk)

Amicus  
North Hill  
7 St James Crescent  
Swansea  
SA1 6DZ  
[www.amicustheunion.org](http://www.amicustheunion.org)

Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC)  
23 Portland Place  
London  
W1B 1PZ  
[www.nmc-uk.org](http://www.nmc-uk.org)

Royal College of Nursing Welsh Board  
Ty Maeth  
King George V Drive East  
Cardiff  
CF14 4XZ  
[www.rcn.org.uk](http://www.rcn.org.uk)

Royal College of Midwives  
15 Mansfield Street  
London  
W1G 9NH  
[www.rcm.org.uk](http://www.rcm.org.uk)

UNISON  
1 Mabledon Place  
London  
WC1H 9HA  
[www.unison.org.uk](http://www.unison.org.uk)

EU Customer Services Team  
Mowden Hall  
Staindrop Road  
Darlington DL3 9BG  
Tel: 0141 243 3570  
Email: [euteam@slc.co.uk](mailto:euteam@slc.co.uk)

National Union of Students  
Nelson Mandela House  
461 Holloway Road  
London N7 6LS  
0207 561 6500  
[www.nusonline.co.uk](http://www.nusonline.co.uk)

Skill: National Bureau for Students with Disabilities  
Chapter House  
18-20 Crucifix Lane  
London  
SE1 3JW  
Phone: 0800 328 5050  
Mincom: 0800 068 2422  
[www.skill.org.uk](http://www.skill.org.uk)

The British Dyslexia Association (BDA)  
98 London Road  
Reading  
Berkshire  
RG1 5AU  
Phone: 0118 966 2677  
Helpline: 0118 966 8271  
[www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk](http://www.bda-dyslexia.org.uk)

Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB)  
105 Judd Street  
London  
WC1H 9HE  
0845 766 9999  
[www.rnib.org.uk/student](http://www.rnib.org.uk/student)

Royal National Institute for Deaf People (RNID)  
19-23 Featherstone Street  
London  
EC1Y 8SL  
Phone: 020 7296 8000  
Textphone: 020 7296 8001  
[www.rnid.org.uk](http://www.rnid.org.uk)

Tax Credits  
HM Revenue and Customs  
General enquiries helpline: 0845 300 3900  
Northern Ireland Tax Credits enquiries:  
0845 6032000  
[www.hmrc.gov.uk/home.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/home.htm)

OFSTED  
Alexandra House  
33 Kingsway  
London  
WC2B 6SE  
020 7421 6800  
[www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk)

## Higher Education Institutions

Glyndwr University  
Plas Coch  
Mold Road  
Wrexham  
LL11 2AW  
01978 293331 (Nursing)  
01978 293100 (Occupational Therapy)

University of Wales Bangor  
Radiography, School of Healthcare Sciences  
Archimedes Centre  
Wrexham Technology Park  
Wrexham  
LL13 7YP  
01978 316205

University of Wales Bangor  
School of Healthcare Sciences  
Fron Heulog  
Ffriddoedd Road  
Bangor  
LL57 2EF  
01248 383134

Cardiff University  
Wales College of Medicine  
Heath Park Campus  
Cardiff  
CF14 4XN  
029 2068 7740 (Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy,  
Radiography)  
029 2068 7523 (Nursing and Midwifery)

University of Wales Institute, Cardiff  
Western Avenue  
Cardiff  
CF5 2SG  
029 2041 6010

University of Glamorgan  
Pontypridd  
CF37 1DL  
0800 716 925

University of Wales Swansea  
School of Health Science  
Singleton Park  
Swansea  
SA2 8PP  
01792 518531

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