If you’re from a university, college or assessment centre that works with students who are eligible for NHS or social work bursaries, please subscribe to Bursary News. Email us at nhsbsa.studentservices@nhs.net with your full contact details and we’ll add you to our distribution list.
Hello and welcome to this edition of Bursary News, providing information and updates from Student Services.

The consultation on Health Education Funding Reforms was launched on 7 April, and the article on page six provides further details. The Department of Health is seeking views from stakeholders on how the reforms can be successfully implemented, therefore we encourage you to respond to this important consultation.

We are projecting a busy few months ahead as we approach the peak Autumn intake. We are actively encouraging students, both new and continuing, to make their bursary application as soon as possible. In this way we can manage our workflows more effectively and ensure students are paid on time. We would be grateful if you could assist us by communicating this message to your student communities.

I hope you find this edition of Bursary News helpful. If you have any comments or ideas for future articles, please contact us nhsbsa.studentservices@nhs.net with your suggestions.

Kerry Hemsworth
Head of Service - Students

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Operational update for NHS Student Bursaries

All NHS students who are eligible to apply for a bursary must make an online application every year through their Bursary Online Support System (BOSS) account. For more information about reapplying and about BOSS, please visit our website at http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students/3942.aspx

Your students can find the application window tables on our website at the appropriate link below. These tables clearly show students when they can apply/reapply for their NHS Bursary and what their deadline is. Other useful guidance on making a bursary application is also provided on these web pages.

Please could all universities encourage their students to apply for an NHS Bursary as soon as possible rather than waiting until close to their application window deadline date. This ensures we do not get a bottleneck of applications just before the deadline and helps us to assess applications and set up payments in a far more timely manner, ready for the start of their academic year.

**Continuing Students**

**New Students**

The tables below outline our current position for the 2016/17 intake:

**New students:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total applications expected</td>
<td>23,916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications approved</td>
<td>783</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications in process (in the queue)</td>
<td>253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications pended (awaiting evidence/further evidence)</td>
<td>3,137</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of students not applied</td>
<td>19,743</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Continuing students:**

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total applications expected</td>
<td>47,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications approved</td>
<td>5,666</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications in process (in the queue)</td>
<td>1,224</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications pended (awaiting evidence/further evidence)</td>
<td>6,801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total number of students not applied</td>
<td>34,008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please ensure your students are aware that if they miss their application window deadline, there may be a delay to their bursary payments for that academic year.

In all cases, students should make their bursary applications (which must include all supporting evidence) within six months of the first date of their academic year.
Operational update for Social Work Bursaries

Social Work Bursary application forms for the academic year 2016/17 can be found on our website at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students/986.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students/986.aspx).

Please could all universities encourage their students to apply for a Social Work Bursary as soon as possible rather than waiting until close to the deadline date. This allows us to assess applications in preparation for the capping allocations being received and set up the correct payments for students ready for the start of their academic year. Please note that the bursary allocations for 2016 are expected from the Department of Health by end of May, so the expected numbers contained in these tables are estimated based on previous years intake and may change.

The tables below outline our current position.

**Postgraduate students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total applications expected</th>
<th>3,432</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total applications approved (subject to capping data from universities/awaiting confirmation of enrolment)</td>
<td>285</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications in process</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Undergraduate students**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total applications expected</th>
<th>5,542</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total applications approved (subject to capping data from universities/awaiting confirmation of enrolment)</td>
<td>756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total applications in process</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
To support our organisation's aim of being 'digital by default', the Social Work Bursaries (SWB) team have worked closely with their Communications team colleagues to create application forms for the 2016/17 academic year which are completely digital. Social work bursary applicants can now complete any of the forms online before sending them to us. We realise that there are some students who still like to put pen to paper, so we've made sure that all of these forms can still be printed out and completed by hand too, if they prefer.

Our next step on the digital journey will be to create all current SWB guides in a digital booklet format. This will improve the customer experience by making them easier to read on our website as they'll include page navigation, 'jump to page' and 'back to home' buttons and section tabs.

Look out for them going live on our website over the next few weeks at:

- Student guides
- University guides

The Department of Health plans to publish an updated student information pack for 2016, including the 2016 social work bursary allocations for each university by the end of May 2016. The information pack will provide information for students on how to apply for a bursary and will also include:

- the number of undergraduate bursaries and the bursary rates for undergraduate social work students who started in the 2015 academic year and are entering their second year of study
- the number of postgraduate bursaries and the bursary rates for postgraduate students who start in the 2016 academic year
- information on the inclusion criteria for universities to use in short listing students for a bursary
- the Education Support Grant rates for the 2016 academic year
The consultation on Health Education Funding Reforms launched on 7 April 2016. The consultation is on how changes to student funding for nurse, midwife and allied health professional degree places can be implemented, and it will run until 30 June 2016.

The news story about this can be read at: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/healthcare-student-funding-consultation-launched

The consultation can be accessed at: https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changing-how-healthcare-education-is-funded

We are continuing to work with our Department of Health and Health Education England clients to understand the full impact of the reforms on Student Services. When more is known we will provide further updates.
2016/17 arrangements for the Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs)

From 1 September 2016, the following should be taken into consideration for NHS funded students when making recommendations for support:

- The Secretary of State has discretion to determine whether the additional costs a student is obliged to incur in connection with undertaking a course because of their disability will be covered by DSAs. This reflects the support that universities and colleges should be providing under their duty to make reasonable adjustments under the Equality Act 2010.

- In addition, all disabled students will be required to contribute £200 towards the cost of any computer provided under the DSAs.

These arrangements apply to:

- all new DSA applications made for courses starting on or after 1 September 2016

and

- continuing students whose courses started prior to 1 September 2016 but who make an application for DSAs on or after 1 September 2016

Details about how this discretion is going to be exercised will be published in our DSA practitioner’s guide for 2016/17 which will be available on our website soon.

NHS Bursary Scheme rules for 2016/17 published

The new NHS Bursary Scheme rules for 2016/17 come into effect on 1 September 2016. The Department of Health publishes these rules every year and they can be viewed here:

April 2016 Stakeholder Event postponed

In the January 2016 edition of Bursary News we informed you about the next Student Services stakeholder event at Greenwich University on 28 April 2016.

In view of the anticipated timelines for the consultation on Health Education Funding Reforms, we have consulted with our clients and sponsors and agreed to postpone the event until later on in the year. We’ve already sent an e-flyer out to everyone and we apologise for the inconvenience to those who had expressed an interest in attending.

We will advise you of the new date as soon as it’s available.

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.
Help us shape our new website

We’re in the early stages of developing a brand new NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) website.

Like our current website, the new site will have separate sections for each of our service areas. The Student Services section will be the first to be developed, and it will act as a prototype for the other NHSBSA services’ sections.

We have already carried out a detailed ‘discovery’ exercise to identify who uses our current website and why, and the work carried out so far has been based on this research. We’re committed to making sure that the new site fully meets its users’ needs, so we’re looking for volunteers to try it out during the various stages of development.

We’d like to hear from any university and college staff who use our current website, including anyone with visual impairments or other accessibility requirements. If you’re interested in taking part, please email our Digital and Online Team at nhsbsa.digital@nhs.net. They’ll contact you when we begin user testing with more details on what’s involved.

Look out for updates on the new website in future editions of Bursary News!
A former NHS Bursary recipient was investigated by the Department for Work and Pensions, the Home Office, Tower Hamlets and the NHSBSA on the basis of using fraudulent documents to successfully obtain an NHS Bursary.

The investigation confirmed that the documents provided by the student were false. The student was arrested in January 2016 and, in light of the evidence collated, pleaded guilty to all allegations of fraud in March 2016. It was agreed that a formal caution would be issued and the NHS Bursary would be repaid, as the student had already spent time in custody.

Please help to protect the public purse by reporting any suspicions of bursary fraud. You’ll find the relevant contact details on the next page.

You can also find fraud awareness posters and a leaflet on our website.
Reporting concerns of fraud

Do you have any suspicions of bursary fraud happening in your university?

Suspicions can be reported in confidence to trained personnel through the NHS Protect Fraud Corruption Reporting Line (FCRL).

Telephone: 0800 028 40 60
(Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm)

Email: nhsfraud@nhsprotect.gsi.gov.uk
(anytime)

Online: www.reportnhsfraud.nhs.uk
(anytime)

Your dedicated helplines

If you have a query and can’t find the answer on Ask Us, our online self-help enquiry system, you can call our advisors on:

NHS Student Bursaries
0300 330 1372

Social Work Bursaries
0300 330 1342