

Student Services

Health Education Funding Reforms: Question & Answers

General

Why are bursaries remaining in place for some students in 2017/18?

Under the government's Health Education Funding Reforms, some types of students were deemed as being out of scope of the funding reforms for specific reasons which are detailed in the [consultation response](#). Therefore, for these student groups, funding arrangements have been established and these are known as 'transitional arrangements'. This means that these groups of students have different arrangements for specific healthcare courses commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.

It is important to note that these are transitional (temporary) arrangements. The Department of Health is currently reviewing these courses and decisions on the future funding arrangements will be made in due course. We will keep this document and our website updated as and when more information is available.

I am starting year 2/3 of my course at a different university, can I still claim my NHS bursary?

You may be able to claim an NHS Bursary if you continue to study on an NHS-funded place.

You will need to check with your university on the relevant funding support available if you change your study pattern in any way.

I have previously taken out a student loan to do another degree, will SLC let me take out a new loan to train in healthcare?

Yes, if you plan to study a pre-registration healthcare course in one of the following eligible courses you will be able to claim a second student loan to allow you to study, just like a student studying for a first degree:

- Nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning and disability)
- Midwifery
- Dietetics
- Occupational Therapy
- Orthotics
- Orthotics & Prosthetics
- Physiotherapy
- Podiatry/Chiropody
- Radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Operating Department Practitioner

Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses (for programmes commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018)

Will I get any travel or accommodation costs reimbursed for costs incurred on placements?

Yes, if you meet the eligibility criteria and are on an eligible programme you will be entitled to claim excess travel and accommodation expenses. These must be costs incurred over and above your daily travel costs and must be related to essential practice placements.

Will I be able to claim all my expenses or will there be a cap in place?

There is no cap, however if you meet the eligibility criteria you can only claim for costs incurred which are over and above your daily travel costs to university.

For dual accommodation, you can claim £55 per night for commercial accommodation (e.g. hotel, bed and breakfast) and £25 per night for non-commercial accommodation.

The travel and dual accommodation expenses available in 2017/18 is separate to any travel-associated costs that may be awarded as part of Disabled Students Allowances as administered by Student Loans Company.

I am a London-based student, can I apply for travel and accommodation expenses?

Yes, the expenses claims have been extended to include all eligible new London-based students who are starting their studies between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.

London-based students who started their studies before 1 August 2017 will claim their expenses using the existing arrangements in place.

What are the eligibility criteria to apply for expenses?

You must meet the following criteria to be eligible to claim travel and accommodation expenses:

- Be a new student starting their course on or after 1 August 2017
- Studying on an eligible programme at a university in England leading to a professional registration:
 - Nursing
 - Midwifery
 - Allied Health Professional (those groups included in the reforms)
- Be eligible for, and in receipt of, tuition fees and a maintenance loan from the Student Loans Company (SLC), Student Finance England provisions (SFE)
- Be in active training, whether academic or practice learning
- Ordinarily resident in England
- This also applies to eligible students attending HEIs in London

Please note: these arrangements are in place for students starting their studies in the 2017/18 academic year. Discussions are taking place regarding what will happen for students who start their studies in 2018/19 and beyond. We will keep this document and our website updated with any further information as it becomes available.

Child Dependants Allowance

Will I be entitled to any additional support for childcare?

Yes, if you are a student starting studies on or after 1 August 2017 the government has put in place additional support for students with dependent children. If you meet the eligibility criteria, you can apply for the Child Dependants Allowance of £1,000 per year for each year of study (pro rata if studying less than full-time).

This allowance is available for students who have parental responsibility for children under 15 years or under 17 years if they are registered as requiring special educational needs.

Will my allowance for childcare be reconciled like the current process?

No, childcare costs are not included under the additional childcare support. This annual payment is to ensure students are able to continue to study and attend practice placements. The payment is not related to students incurring costs due to their childcare arrangements.

Does it matter if a student's partner is also an NHS funded student on old/new arrangements?

No, providing you meet the eligibility criteria and have eligible child dependants you will be able to receive this allowance.

What is the eligibility criteria for Child Dependants Allowance?

You will need to meet the following criteria to be eligible to claim travel and accommodation expenses:

- Be a new student starting your studies on or after 1 August 2017
- Studying on an eligible programme leading to a professional registration:
 - Nursing
 - Midwifery
 - Allied Health Professional (those groups included in the reforms)
- Be eligible for, and in receipt of, tuition fees and a maintenance loan from the Student Loans Company (SLC), Student Finance England provisions (SFE)
- Be in active training, whether academic or practice learning
- Ordinarily resident in England
- This also applies to eligible students attending HEIs in London

Do I get an extra allowance for more than one child?

No, the payment is not related to the number of dependants you have. It is an annual payment made to eligible students.

Exceptional Support Fund (ESF)

Will there be any additional support for hardship circumstances?

The Exceptional Support Fund (ESF) will be available for eligible new students starting their course on or after 1 August 2017 who are facing severe hardship.

How much is the Exceptional Support Fund?

Eligible students will be able to claim up to a total of £3,000 per year under the scheme. This may not be paid in one lump sum, but will be apportioned regarding to the extent of the individual's financial situation

Will I be eligible for this funding?

Students in extreme financial hardship who have exhausted other means of funding will be able to apply for this grant as long as they meet the eligibility criteria.

How can I apply for this funding?

To apply for this scheme you will need to complete an online form. We will update this document and our website with the link in due course.

When can I apply for ESF?

You can apply for ESF at any point throughout your course, however please bear in mind you will need to provide evidence that you have tried to access other forms of funding available through your university or other sources such as any relevant state benefits or schemes such as NHS Help with Health Costs. If this evidence is not provided we cannot guarantee we will be able to process your application.

What does ESF cover?

This funding is to provide financial support to students to allow them to continue their studies. When we consider eligibility a variety of costs will be taken into account such as rent, insurance, food and other expenses and where a shortfall can be identified between income and outgoings, a payment may be awarded.

The ESF is **not** available to cover debt incurred prior to entering studies (such as credit card, loan or gambling debts).

What are the eligibility criteria for ESF?

In order to qualify for the Exceptional Support Fund, students must meet the following criteria:

- Be a new student starting your studies on or after 1 August 2017
- Be studying on an eligible programme leading to a professional registration:
 - Nursing
 - Midwifery
 - Allied Health Professional (the groups included in the reforms)

- be eligible for, and in receipt of, tuition fees and a maintenance loan from the Student Loans Company (SLC), Student Finance England provisions (SFE)
- Be actively in training, whether academic or practice learning
- Be ordinarily resident in England

Will ESF affect the benefits I already receive (i.e. housing benefits)?

If you are applying for ESF you will need to make the relevant checks or declarations to your benefits office.

Postgraduate / Dental Hygiene/ Dental Therapy Students (commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018)

If I am studying on a postgraduate programme or a dental hygiene/dental therapy programme commencing in 2017/18, will I be able to apply for a bursary?

Yes, if you are studying on an NHS-commissioned place you will be able to apply for an NHS Bursary.

Students on part time courses (commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018)

If I change between part-time and full-time would this affect my funding?

Yes, if you change from part-time to full-time your funding will be affected. From the date you change, you will no longer be eligible to receive the NHS maintenance bursary and allowances. You will need to apply to the Student Loans Company to support your living costs.

What are the arrangements for the eligible part-time courses?

Under the Health Education Funding Reforms which come into effect on 1 August 2017 there are some temporary arrangements in place for certain students. Students on the eligible part-time courses (see the question below for courses) will be able to apply for a maintenance bursary from NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA). Students will need to apply to the Student Loans Company for their tuition fees and DSA payments.

What maintenance bursary will be available?

The bursary available to part-time students in 2017/18 is aligned to the provisions of the NHS Bursary Scheme with specific exceptions:

- Students must be ordinarily resident in England
- Students must have applied and been accepted for funding from Student Finance England
- Students must be studying on a capped place at one of the universities listed below

How do I know if my course falls into this category?

The list below provides information on the universities and part-time courses which fall into the transitional arrangements for 2017/18.

HEI	Programme/s
University of Brighton	Occupational Therapy
University of Cumbria	Occupational Therapy
University of Salford	Occupational Therapy Physiotherapy
University of Huddersfield	Podiatry
Birmingham City University	Speech & Language Therapy
Coventry University	Occupational Therapy
Oxford Brookes University	Adult Nursing Operating Department Practice
London South Bank University	Occupational Therapy

Student attending these courses will be able to [apply for a maintenance bursary](#) from NHSBSA.

Making an application

When will I be able to apply?

For students who need to apply to the Student Loans Company (under Student Finance England provisions) it is important you apply as soon as possible to ensure you will receive your funding in time for the start of your course. You can find information and guidance on how to apply by visiting www.gov.uk/student-finance. For more information about the Student Loans Company please visit their website www.slc.co.uk.

For students eligible to apply for an NHS Bursary [please click here](#) to see when your application windows open.

Obtaining Further Information

When will further information about the reforms be available?

We will update this website with more information as it becomes available. If you send us an [email](#) then we will notify you when the website is updated.