



Department
of Health

NHS Financial Support for Health Students (First Edition)¹

Transitional Arrangements 2017/18

Information for academic authorities and students for the 2017/18 academic year (First Edition)

Prepared by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department
of Health

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Introduction

The Government's Response to the consultation '*Reforming healthcare education funding: creating a sustainable future workforce*' stated the following:

'The government has developed several options to support those students studying a healthcare course. We believe that these provisions will ensure that healthcare higher education funding reforms are implemented effectively and equitably. We remain committed to the importance of diversity in the NHS workforce and ensuring accessibility to higher education healthcare courses is as wide as possible is a major step towards achieving this.'

As a result of feedback from the consultation, certain healthcare courses, will, for the 2017/18 academic year, be subject to transitional funding arrangements, where NHS Bursary support (or equivalent maintenance bursary in the case of part-time students) will be available to eligible new students on certain courses. This is to ensure that the longer term workforce supply is secured until future funding and student support arrangements is confirmed.

The purpose of this document is to set out the transitional funding arrangements and identify those courses which will attract NHS Bursary (or equivalent) funding during the transitional period from 1 August 2017 to 31 July 2018 inclusively. The information in this document is made in alignment with the *NHS Bursary Scheme - New Rules - Sixth Edition 2017/18*.

Unless specified elsewhere in this document, the provisions of *the NHS Bursary Scheme New Rules: Sixth Edition* apply to the Transitional Arrangements 2017/18, and this document should be read in conjunction with the NHS Bursary Scheme and treated as supplementary guidance for the specified programmes as detailed below.

In summary, the 2017/18 transitional arrangements are as follows:

Part-time courses – The government will continue to provide a maintenance bursary for a capped number of eligible new English-domiciled students commencing part-time courses in the 2017/18 academic year. (The bursary will normally be available for the course duration unless there are specific circumstances such as deferred entry or permanent withdrawals from training). Students will have access to the tuition fee loan funding and any Disabled Students Allowances via the standard student finance system as administered by Student Loans Company (Student Finance England provisions).

Postgraduate courses – The government will continue to provide an NHS Bursary for a capped number of eligible students applying for postgraduate courses starting in 2017/18 which are commissioned by Health Education England (HEE).

Dental Hygiene and Dental Therapy courses – The government will continue to provide an NHS Bursary for a capped number of eligible students applying for dental hygiene and dental therapy courses starting in 2017/18 which are commissioned by Health Education England (HEE).

1. New students commencing eligible undergraduate part-time Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professional courses between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018

- 1.1 The Government's Response to the consultation '*Reforming healthcare education funding: creating a sustainable future workforce*' was published on 21 July 2016. The response in relation to transitional arrangements for part-time programmes for 2017/18 was as follows:

'The consultation indicated that in 2017/18, part-time students will only have access to tuition fee loans and will not be eligible to apply for a loan for living costs through the Student Loans Company (SLC). For this reason, the Government will, for a capped number of new students, who commence part-time courses in 2017/18, continue to provide maintenance bursary support for the duration of their course. Further guidance will be issued in due course. The intention is for new students commencing part-time courses from 2018/19 onwards to apply for both tuition and maintenance loans through the SLC, subject to a wider consultation on part-time undergraduate maintenance loans.'

- 1.2 Therefore for a capped number of new eligible students who commence part-time courses that are included in the capping arrangements in 2017/18, the government will continue to provide maintenance bursary support for the duration of their course. Students will have access to the standard student finance system for a loan for tuition fees. These arrangements will ensure that part-time student numbers are maintained during the transition to the reformed funding arrangements for healthcare students.
- 1.3 Part-time students who enrol from 2018/19 (courses that commence on or after 1 August 2018) onwards will be eligible for funding provided by the Student Loans Company (SLC).

Eligibility criteria

- 1.4 The rules outlined in the 'personal eligibility criteria' section 2 of *The NHS Bursary Scheme - New Rules Sixth Edition for 2017/18* apply, except that:
- (a) students on eligible part-time courses must be ordinarily resident in England on the first day of the 2017/18 academic year, rather than the wider UK.
 - (b) EU Nationals other than UK nationals may be eligible for a bursary maintenance award if, on the first day of the first academic year of the course,

they meet the required eligibility criteria, in accordance with the [Education \(Student Support\) Regulations 2011](#).

- 1.5 Students must be enrolled on an eligible part-time course and awarded a capped place by their higher education institution.
- 1.6 Students must provide confirmation to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) of their application to Student Loans Company for a tuition fee loan (Student Finance England provisions) in the form of a copy of their confirmed tuition fee loan letter when applying for a maintenance bursary.
- 1.7 Those students who, after submitting an application to the NHSBSA, are determined as being entitled to a 'EU Fees Only' award rather than a maintenance bursary, will **not** be eligible for any funding from the NHSBSA in 2017/18.
- 1.8 Part-time students who are therefore:
 - (i) eligible for a maintenance bursary as detailed in [paragraphs 1.4 to 1.7](#) above and;
 - (ii) allocated one of the capped places;will receive a maintenance bursary from 2017/18 for the duration of that course.

The maintenance bursary

- 1.9 The same rates and allowances set out in *Section 5 - Maintenance Awards in The NHS Bursary Scheme - New Rules Sixth Edition for 2017/18* and the conditions in which these are awarded will also apply to new students commencing designated part-time courses in 2017/18. This is with the explicit exception of entry (b) in Table 5 of the Scheme Rules, which refers to Disabled Students Allowances. (See [paragraph 1.10](#) below)

Disabled Students Allowances (DSAs)

- 1.10 DSAs will **not** be included as part of the maintenance bursary award for students commencing part-time courses on or after 1 August 2017. Any students with disabilities will need to apply to SLC for these allowances. The allowances payable are equivalent to the DSAs included in the NHS Bursary Scheme, and details can be found at www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowances-dsas/overview

Bursary allocations and capping arrangements 2017/18

- 1.11 The courses included within the capping arrangements for 2017/18 are those courses commissioned by Health Education England in 2016/17.
- 1.12 The NHSBSA will inform the relevant higher education institutions of their allocation prior to the 2017/18 academic year.

Confirming enrolment

- 1.13 Higher education institutions will send the NHSBSA a Confirmation of Student Attendance (COSA) list containing the names of those eligible students who have enrolled on the relevant part-time course(s).
- 1.14 Higher education institutions and the NHSBSA will work together to ensure all of the capped places are allocated, where possible. The NHSBSA will carry out a reconfirmation of attendance exercise at the start of each programme year.
- 1.15 The allocation of part-time places specifically excludes any students who are sponsored or assisted as referenced in Paragraph 2.8 of the NHS Bursary Scheme New Rules: Sixth Edition. As referenced in [paragraph 1.20](#) below, such students are not eligible for a maintenance bursary.

Changes in course attendance

Maternity/ Paternity/ Adoption

- 1.16 The provisions relating to Maternity, Maternity Support and Adoption as detailed in Section 9 of the NHS Bursary Scheme New Rules sixth edition will apply to students commencing eligible part-time programmes between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.

Deferral of course

- 1.17 Where a student defers their offer of a training place on a part-time course commencing on or after 1 August 2017, they may not be eligible to apply for any bursary funding elements. In such circumstances, students may be eligible to apply to Student Loans Company for tuition fee and maintenance loans.

Withdrawal or temporary suspension from training

- 1.18 Where a student enrolls on a part-time course commencing on or after 1 August 2017 but subsequently withdraws or temporarily suspends their studies, and later returns to the course as a new student on or after 1 August 2018, they will normally no longer be eligible for a maintenance bursary from NHSBSA. However, exceptional cases where students have relevant mitigating circumstances will be considered between NHSBSA and the Department of Health.

Transferring to a full-time course

- 1.19 Where a student who is eligible for a bursary maintenance award from NHSBSA subsequently transfers to a full time course, either at the same or a different higher education institution, maintenance bursary funding from NHSBSA will no longer be payable from the date the change takes effect or for any subsequent transfer back to a part-time programme.

1.20 Any students who are studying on relevant programmes on an 'assisted' basis will **not** be eligible for a maintenance bursary from NHSBSA. Including, but not limited to:

(a) Students who are self-funding;

(b) Students whose fees are being paid for by any agency other than the Student Loans Company;

(c) Students who are studying on a secondment basis.

Exceptional Support

1.21 Students studying on a capped part-time place under these transitional arrangements will be eligible to apply for the Exceptional Support Fund element of the Learning Support Fund.

2. New pre-registration postgraduate students commencing courses between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018

- 2.1 Health Education England (HEE) will continue to commission postgraduate pre-registration healthcare programmes commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.
- 2.2 HEE will notify higher education institutions of places through the standard commissioning arrangements. Students will be able to apply for an NHS Bursary through the provisions of the NHS Bursary Scheme.
- 2.3 Confirmation of attendance from higher education institutions will be required in order for new students to be paid their bursary award.
- 2.4 Further detail on the arrangements for new postgraduate pre-registration students starting courses on or after 1 August 2018 will be published in due course.

3. New pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy students commencing courses between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018

- 3.1 Health Education England (HEE) will continue to commission pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy programmes commencing between 1 August 2017 and 31 July 2018.
- 3.2 HEE will notify higher education institutions of places through the standard commissioning arrangements. Students will be able to apply for an NHS Bursary through the provisions of the NHS Bursary Scheme.
- 3.3 Confirmation of attendance from higher education institutions will be required in order for new students to be paid their bursary award.
- 3.4 Further detail on the arrangements for new pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy students starting courses on or after 1 August 2018 will be published in due course.