

Student Services news

Keeping us connected

Student Services

NHS Student Bursaries

Social Work Bursaries

Education Support Grant

Learning Support Fund



Welcome to Student Services News

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 @NHSBSA_Students

 @SWB_NHSBSA

 @NHSBSA_LSF

If you're from a university, college or assessment centre that works with students who are eligible for NHS or social work bursaries or students who may be eligible for the new Learning Support Fund, please sign up to our [contact list](#) to keep up to date with the latest information from Student Services.

Introduction

from Louisa Ruman, Head of Student Services



Welcome to the autumn edition of Student Services News. I hope you all had a lovely and enjoyable summer and have got through the manic month's of September and October!

Over the month of September we visited a number of HEIs during freshers week, where we had the pleasure of meeting over 1,000 students and staff briefing them on the benefits that the Learning Support Fund has to offer. Recent analysis of those HEIs visited shows that directly after our visit there was a 48% increase in the number of students registering. If you would like us to visit your HEI and speak to students and/or staff members please contact us at nhsbsa.studentservices@nhs.net.

We are currently developing a new Bursary System for Social Work students and further details of what the new system has to offer are later on in this newsletter. In the New Year we will be holding a series of events to introduce the new system and provide demonstrations, watch this space for further information!

We are looking at a programme of events to cover LSF and NHS Bursaries. We would be grateful if you could take 2 minutes to complete a short survey. Your responses will help us when planning the days so we can make sure we cover information that would be useful to you. You can access the survey by entering code **#8391** on the Sli.do website on either a computer or any mobile device. The survey will close on Friday 14 December. hyperlink Sli.do website to <https://www.sli.do/>

We will be holding events to present the new Social Work Bursary online system (you can read more about this on page 10) in Spring 2019.

The NHS Bursary Scheme and Learning Support Fund Scheme is now published and the latest versions can be found [here](#).

Louisa Ruman
Head of Student Services

Operational update

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](#).

Your students can find the application window tables on our website. Other useful information and guidance on making a bursary application is also provided on the web pages.

Please encourage your students to apply for an NHS Bursary as soon as possible rather than waiting until close to their application window deadline date. This will help us to assess applications and set up payments in a timely manner ready for the start of the academic year.

The tables below outline our current position for the 2018/19 intake:

Total applications expected	29,891
Total applications approved	30,357
Total applications in process (in the queue)	9
Total applications pended (awaiting evidence/further evidence)	1,510
Total number of students not applied	0

Volumes are higher than expected due to students returning to study. The number expected is a snap shot in time and was based on the number of students in receipt of a bursary at the point the application window opened earlier in the year.

Operational update

Social Work Bursaries

The bursary application window deadline for autumn term starters passed on 1 November 2018. The application window for students starting their course between January and March 2019 is now open. Students can find the relevant bursary application forms on our website. The application deadline for these students is 14 February 2019. Students commencing their Social Work course can find the relevant bursary application forms on [our website](#).

Please encourage your students to apply for a Social Work Bursary as soon as possible. This will help us to assess applications and set up payments in a timely manner (subject to capping data from universities /awaiting confirmation of enrolment).

Postgraduate students:	
Total applications expected	3,543
Total applications approved (subject to capping data from universities/awaiting confirmation of enrolment)	2,994
Total applications in process	30
Total number of students not applied	519
Undergraduate students:	
Total applications expected	5,204
Total applications approved (subject to capping data from universities/awaiting confirmation of enrolment)	4,530
Total applications in process	61
Total number of students not applied	613

Operational update

Learning Support Fund

The Learning Support Fund (LSF) provides supplementary funding to the higher education student loans from the government, for eligible students who are starting pre-registration healthcare courses on or after 1 August 2017.

The LSF consists of three allowances; Child Dependants Allowance (CDA), Travel and Dual Accommodation (TDAE) and Exceptional Support Fund (ESF).

Please encourage your students to apply for any of the LSF allowances they may be eligible for.

Details of the eligibility criteria and more information about each of the allowances including guidance and how to apply can be found on our website www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/LSF.

The table below outlines our current position since the launch of LSF on 1 November 2017.

Number of LSF accounts registered					18,754
Number of non loan students					924
Work Stream	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Applications Rejected	Applications On Hand	Applications Pending
CDA Application	13,083	7,271	2,765	613	2,434
TDAE Application	11,052	9,604	349	207	892
ESF Application	388	269	86	9	24



British Heart Foundation update

As part of Student Services’ efforts to raise money for our charity partner for 2018, the British Heart Foundation (BHF), six members of staff spent some time volunteering at the local BHF Foundation store in Cleveleys, Lancashire.

The staff were split into two teams; Louisa Ruman, Matt Rainbow and Emma Ogunby in the morning and Michael Durnan, Hayley Prescott and Mike Lee took over in the afternoon.

Each team was set a goal of selling an item; Matt was asked to sell a doll and this was sold within 40 minutes of the challenge being set. In the afternoon, Michael was asked to sell a Santa figure and he did this within a record 20 minutes!

Emma Ogunby said of the day:

“We really enjoyed our volunteering day. We met some great people both who selflessly volunteer their time in the shop and some lovely customers too. It’s a great feeling to know your contributing to a very worthwhile cause and I’d encourage everyone to have a go at volunteering!”

The money raised in the store on the day was added to the total figure for the NHSBSA which currently stands at £28,848.70 - already exceeding our target for the year of £25,000! We’re delighted to have played a part in this achievement and will continue our fundraising efforts for this worthy cause.





A new system for SWB

Student Services is currently working on replacing the system that is currently used to process Social Work Bursaries (SWB) called FEAST.

Feedback from the customer survey highlighted many requests for a more up to date, online application system for students; this project will work towards this. We are developing an online portal called 'MyFunding'. This will allow Social Work Bursary students to create and view their account and self-manage the data we hold such as updating their address, contact information and bank details. Students will still be required to complete an application form and send this to us, however they will be able to track the progress of their application through their online account.

We are looking forward to the release of MyFunding as it will provide a better user experience for anyone that is currently involved in the SWB application process. We'll be holding some events in the Spring to showcase the new system so keep a look out for more information.

“Feedback from the customer survey highlighted many requests for a more up to date, online application system for students.”

”

LSF back on Tour!

The LSF on Tour team was back on the road for freshers week this September.

The team visited nine universities and between them saw over 1,000 students to promote the Learning Support Fund. The feedback from the roadshows has been fantastic and we have picked up some information from students which we will be working on to try and spread the message about LSF further.

You can find a range of materials to help you promote LSF [on our website](#). If there is anything specific you would like to help you promote LSF within your university, [please contact us](#) and we'll try our best to accommodate any requests.



NHS Bursary fraud update

A 39 year old Ghanaian national was convicted of fraud following the great work of our Local Counter Fraud Team.

The defendant was sentenced to eight months in prison at Shrewsbury Crown Court after they produced false identification documents and subsequently claimed £26,330.75 in NHS Bursaries. They claimed they had indefinite leave to remain in the UK and studied a nursing diploma between 2007 and 2011. They were

later arrested in 2012 on suspicion of entering the country illegally.

Talking of the case, Lisa McAlister, Lead Fraud Specialist at NHSBSA said:

"Fraud against the NHS is totally unacceptable. The NHSBSA is committed to taking all appropriate action, including pursuing criminal charges where necessary against those suspected of committing NHS fraud."



Reporting concerns of fraud

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

Suspicions can be reported in confidence to the NHS Counter Fraud Authority.

Telephone:

0800 028 40 60

(Monday to Friday 8am to 6pm)

Online: www.cfa.nhs.uk

(anytime)



Stop Fraud

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**

Learning Support Fund

 **0300 330 1372**