

NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance (Wales) Scheme 2020 – Student Factsheet

NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance (Wales) Scheme 2020: Student Coverage

Where a healthcare or social care student takes up a paid role and has an employment contract with an NHS body or social care provider, they will be eligible under the scheme in the same way as other employed staff in the same role.

Paid healthcare students may also be eligible to join the NHS Pension Scheme, which provides further death in service benefits.

Unpaid students

Scheme rules set out that 'eligible individuals' include paid health and social care workers and registered healthcare professional volunteers. Unpaid medical and healthcare placement students do not fall into these categories of automatically 'eligible' individuals.

However, the scheme also allows Welsh Ministers to exercise discretion to include individuals who are not automatically eligible. This can include unpaid students on placement who are not automatically eligible but who meet the remaining eligibility criteria set out in the scheme rules.

Considering cases from unpaid students

The scheme is designed to cover staff (both eligible and deemed to be eligible by Welsh Ministers) providing personal care or treatment for people or staff carrying out social services functions and who have contracted coronavirus (COVID-19).

In order to make a payment to both eligible and 'deemed eligible' staff, Welsh Ministers must be satisfied that, on the basis of evidence, the individual was exposed to a high risk of contracting coronavirus in circumstances where they could not reasonably avoid that risk by virtue of the nature and location of the work they carried out.

We cannot guarantee that all unpaid students will meet these requirements, as each case will need to be considered individually. Equally, we cannot give this reassurance to paid NHS and social care workers, as they too must meet the eligibility criteria.

Further information on eligibility is available on the NHS and Social Care Coronavirus Life Assurance (Wales) Scheme 2020 [webpages](#).