

New funding FAQs

About the funding

1. What is the new offer?

The new funding is an extension to the current NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF) package. It applies to the following nursing, midwifery and many allied health professional (AHP) pre-registration courses from September 2020:

- dietetics
- dental hygiene / dental therapy (level 5 and level 6 courses)
- midwifery
- nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing / social work)
- occupational therapy
- operating department practitioner (level 5 and level 6 courses)
- orthoptics
- orthotics and prosthetics
- paramedicine
- physiotherapy
- podiatry / chiropody
- radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- speech and language therapy

Students on these courses will receive at least £5,000 a year in additional funding for maintenance and associated study costs.

Subject to meeting eligibility criteria, they could also receive further funding as set out below:

- An extra £1000 as a top up to the current Child Dependents Allowance for childcare costs (this will be known as Parental Support and replaces the current CDA element),
- New Students from September 2020 studying in certain regions in England (more information on this will follow in due course).
- An extra £1000 for new students from September 2020 on the following courses that are currently struggling to recruit but which are vital to delivering the NHS Long Term Plan:
 - mental health nursing
 - learning disability nursing
 - radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
 - prosthetics and orthotics
 - orthoptics and podiatry

This means that subject to the eligibility outlined above students could benefit from up to £8,000 in total support per year with everyone getting at least £5,000. The funding will not have to be repaid.

2. Who is eligible to apply for the new funding?

From September 2020 all eligible new and continuing students will be able to access the £5000 payment and for those with child dependents there is an additional £1,000 per student per year.

An additional £1,000 will be paid to all eligible new students studying one of the specialisms and/or in an area struggling to recruit.

Students who started or resumed their course in January to August 2020 will be able to apply for the additional funding in their following year of study. For example, if you started your course in January 2020, you will be able to apply for the additional funding when you start your second year in January 2021.

3. When will the funding be available and students paid?

This funding will be available from September 2020. Deadlines for applications will be advised in due course and published on our website and social media channels.

As with student loan payments, funding will be phased over the academic year and will be paid in three equal instalments. This will provide students with a consistent flow of funding throughout their academic year.

For September students to receive the first payment, they must be in attendance on 1 November. Payment will be made once the NHS Business Services Authority Student Services department has received confirmation of attendance from the university. This will be mirrored for students who start after September 2020, for example:

- A student starts/continues study in September/October 2020, needs to be in attendance on 1 November to receive the initial instalment.
- A student starts/continues study in January/February, needs to be in attendance on 1 March 2021 to receive the initial instalment.
- A student starts/ continues in March/ April, needs to be in attendance on 1 May 2021 to receive the initial instalment.

4. Is the amount adjusted for part-time attendance?

Yes, students on part-time courses will receive a pro rata payment. Further detail will be made available in due course.

5. What are the qualifying criteria? Residency, place of study, domiciled etc.

Eligibility criteria for the new funding will be the same as the wider NHS Learning Support Fund payable to students ordinarily resident in the UK and studying at a university in England.

6. What if I go to university in Scotland/NI/Wales?

This offer is available to students ordinarily resident in the UK and studying courses in England only. Decisions about the NHS workforce in Northern Ireland, Scotland and

Wales, including the funding that they provide for students, are a matter for the Devolved Administrations of those countries.

7. Can international students apply for the new funding support?

Students must ensure they meet all the eligibility criteria, including residency, as set out in the NHS Learning Support Fund guidance. You can find this on our website www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/LSF.

8. What information/evidence will I need to support my claim?

Evidence required is the same as for other elements of the NHS Learning Support Fund; this being confirmation that you are in receipt of the full student loan package and your identity. If you have chosen to not take out a student loan, you will be required to supply additional supporting information and evidence.

9. Is the grant available each year of study?

The additional funding will be introduced from September 2020. Students will receive the additional funding for the full term of their studies. Students will need to reapply for elements of the NHS Learning Support Fund each academic year.

10. What can I use the funding for (to pay tuition fees etc.)?

This is additional maintenance funding to help students with costs related to studying.

11. Where can I find information on the funding?

You can find information about the funding by visiting the NHS Business Services Authority website: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/LSF.

12. How is this any different? How is it better?

Eligible students will still have access to tuition fee and maintenance loans and any other additional support that they may be eligible for from the Student Loans Company. Students will still be able to access additional non-repayable funding from DHSC through the NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF). This new funding is an extension to the current NHS Learning Support Fund package, meaning students can apply for any elements applicable to their circumstances.

The new offer means that nursing, midwifery and many allied health students will have more cash in their pocket than was ever available under the old NHS Bursary.

13. Will the payment be taxed?

This is a payment made to students when at university and will not be subject to tax.

14. Will we still be able to claim travel to placement costs?

Yes, Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses is part of the NHS Learning Support Fund package and will continue to be available. The new funding is part of NHS Learning Support Fund and is in addition to the elements provided previously.

15. What support will be available for students with children?

New and continuing students with caring responsibilities will benefit from an additional £1,000 to help them balance their studies with their caring responsibilities. This is on top of the £1,000 already on offer through the current Child Dependents Allowance.

16. I am currently a third-year student receiving LSF but need to extend my studies for 12 months. Will I be eligible to apply for the new funding if my studies continue after 1 September?

No, you will remain on the LSF package you are currently on.

Change of circumstances

17. What about all the students who had to pay their way after the bursary was removed, will they be compensated?

No, this is a new funding offer available from September 2020 for students on nursing, midwifery and many AHP courses. Students who started in the 2017/18 academic year and have completed their studies will not be entitled to the funding.

Any student who steps off a course now will not be entitled to the funding if they were to re-join the course.

18. Will students have to pay back the money if they drop out halfway through their courses?

If you withdraw from training and are over-paid you may be asked to repay a certain proportion.

19. If I step off my course for maternity leave, will I still be entitled to receive payments?

No, payments will be paused for the duration of your maternity leave and will resume once we have received your application for the relevant academic year together with confirmation of attendance from your university.

What other funding is available?

20. Will I also be eligible for a loan/fees via Student Finance England?

Eligible students should continue to access funding for tuition fees and maintenance loans from the Student Loan Company.

21. Will it impact any benefits me or my family are in receipt of?

Students will need to check their own position with the relevant agency.

22. What other funding is available?

The new funding package will supplement existing support available to nursing, midwifery and many allied health profession students from the NHS Learning Support Fund; this includes reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs to attend clinical placements, funding for students facing financial hardship and childcare support.

Eligible students will continue to have access to tuition fee and maintenance loans and allowances from the Student Loans Company.

23. Will the funding cover tuition fees?

This new financial package is additional maintenance funding to help students with living costs.

24. How will my student loan be affected?

This new financial package is additional maintenance funding to help students with living costs. Eligible students will be able to continue accessing funding for tuition fees and maintenance loans from the Student Loan Company.

25. Are international students eligible providing they are studying the listed courses in England?

No, students must be ordinarily resident in the UK prior to starting their course and meet the required eligibility criteria for accessing student loans.

26. I started my course with a student finance funding package, what happens if I take a break because there appears to be a more attractive funding package available?

The funding will be available to current and future students on a nursing, midwifery or many allied health professional courses who are enrolled on an eligible course at a university in England from September 2020.

Any student who steps off a course before 1 September will not be entitled to the funding if they were to re-join the course.

27. I am due to commence training in early 2020. Can I defer to get the new funding?

The funding will be available to all current and future students on a nursing, midwifery or many of the allied health profession courses from September 2020.

Any student who steps off a course now will not be entitled to the funding if they were to re-join the course.

28. Will students who finish this year or extend by a few months into September 2020 be able to claim some of the new support?

No. Students who finish their studies before September 2020 will not be eligible to apply for the new funding.

Students who extend their studies by a month or longer which takes them into September 2020, would not be able to claim the funding as they would be regarded as having started that academic year prior to September 2020.

29. Will the funding be backdated for those that have been in receipt of NHS LSF for the past 3 years?

No.

Students in receipt of an NHS Bursary or Social Work Bursary

30. I am an existing medical/dental/social work student in receipt of a bursary. Can I access this non-means tested grant?

This funding is not available to medical and dental students who already receive a bursary in year 4 (and 5) of their studies or social work students.

- 31. I previously had access to the bursary and stepped off the course for maternity/ill health, when I return will I have access to the additional funding?**
If you return to your studies receiving an NHS Bursary you will not be able to claim this funding.
- 32. I am already claiming an NHS Bursary can I claim this additional funding?**
No. This additional funding is available to students that are eligible for tuition fee and maintenance loans from the Student Loans Company.
- 33. Will the amount of student finance I receive be offset against the new maintenance funding?**
No, the additional funding is not means-tested.
- 34. Are students who already hold a degree and studying one of the listed courses as a second degree eligible?**
Students who are undertaking their second degree, where their first was not a healthcare related subject, are able to apply for NHS LSF and the additional funding.
- 35. Will students studying the accelerated post graduate pre-registration courses (in the listed subjects) be eligible?**
Yes, providing they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 36. Will the new grant be on top of the maximum maintenance loan of £9,203?**
Yes
- 37. Will the maintenance loan revert to the lower reduced rate which was previously available to healthcare students when there was a bursary?**
No
- 38. If the answer is that they can get the maximum loan, will students still be able to get the long courses loan as well?**
Yes, provided they meet the eligibility criteria.
- 39. Will the grant be limited to the number of years of the course; or, until the student completes the course; or the number of years of the course plus one, in case the student needs to repeat a year?**
Students may be able to claim an additional 12 months depending on circumstances.
- 40. Will foundation year students be able to access the new student grants?**
No, the funding is for students on a pre-registration approved undergraduate or postgraduate course.
- 41. If a student is on a course identified as a shortage area required to support the NHS Long Term Plan and subsequently transfers to a different course which does not meet that criteria, will their funding be reduced?**
Yes, and entitlement will be reassessed accordingly.

42. If a student is not on a course identified as a shortage area required to support the NHS Long Term Plan and subsequently transfers to a different course which does meet that criteria, will their funding be reduced?

Yes, and entitlement will be reassessed accordingly.

43. If courses are a combined qualification e.g. Adult and Mental Health 48 month courses, will students receive the additional £1,000?

Courses that combine nursing with one of the specialist courses should attract the additional funding of £1000.

Paramedic courses

44. Will it only be available to students on Paramedic courses registered with the Health and Care Professional Council (HCPC)?

Yes. The Training Grant funding will be available to new and continuing undergraduate and postgraduate students studying degrees from September 2020 enrolled on courses that enable them to apply for registration with the relevant professional body. For paramedicine science courses, this is the HCPC.

45. Does it apply to all courses, or just UG level as there are Dip HEs, FDs and Masters?

Only students studying undergraduate and postgraduate degree courses will be eligible for the new maintenance grant funding. This includes bachelors and master's courses. It does not include Dip HEs or FDs.