

Health Service Circular



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NHS BURSARY SCHEME (THIRD EDITION)

New Bursary Rates for NHS Funded Health Care Professional Students

For action by: Consortia Business Managers
Morecambe Bay Health Authority - Chief Executive

For information to: Consortia Chairs, for Distribution to Members
NHS Trusts - Chief Executives
NHS Trusts (England) - Director of Nursing
National Union of Students
Deans of Health Care Faculties in England
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NHS BURSARY SCHEME (THIRD EDITION)

New Bursary Rates for NHS Funded Health Care Professional Students

Summary

This circular, through the accompanying NHS Bursary Scheme (Third Edition), provides the new Bursary rates for NHS funded nursing and midwifery diploma level students and degree level nursing, midwifery and PAMs students. Medical students undertaking their second year of the new starter graduate entry degree course in September 2000, will receive NHS funding and will be eligible for a meanstested Bursary at the same rates as other degree level health care professionals.

Action

Recipients are asked to note that the new rates are effective from 1 September 2000.

Background & Other Information

The NHS student support arrangements were introduced in September 1998 to support Ministers' commitment to safeguarding the future supply of key staff groups and to enable the widest possible access to health professional careers.

With the exception of the uplift of Bursary rates by 2.5%, there are no changes to the existing Scheme for academic year 2000/2001.

Clarification of the rules have been provided on the following areas of the Scheme:

- A student's eligibility for the payment of the Older Students Allowance has been clarified, highlighting the rule that students must have reached the age of 26 before the first day of the first **academic year** of the course;
- Additional guidance has been provided regarding claims for Clinical Placement Costs, advising that students can claim the gross cost of their journeys, provided that the cost is in excess of their normal daily travel costs from term-time residence to college;
- The Bursary will continue to be paid in monthly instalments. The first instalment to new intakes will cover 2 months and be paid by cheque via the university. Subsequent payments will be made on the third Friday of each month by the bank automated credit system (BACS).
- The definition of "high cost" and "higher cost" countries has been amended in line with the changes in the cost of living ratings. Norway and Sweden have moved from the "higher cost" banding to the "high cost" band. Australia, New Zealand and the United States have dropped out of the "high cost" band so that the "elsewhere" rate will apply. The former Soviet Union is now shown as "the Commonwealth of Independent States".

Administration

With effect from 1 September 2000, the NHS Student Grants Unit (SGU) will assume responsibility for medical students undertaking the new starter graduate entry degree course from their 2nd year of study. The Unit will therefore assess, pay and review maintenance grants, including clinical placement costs for:

- Existing and new intakes of chiroprapist, dental hygienist, dental therapist, dietician, nurse (degree course), midwife (degree course), occupational therapist, orthoptist, physiotherapist, prosthetist and orthotist, radiographer and speech and language therapist; and
- Existing nursing and midwifery diploma students who started their course on or after academic year 1 September 1999; and
- New intakes of diploma nursing and midwifery students; and
- Intakes of medical students in their 2nd year of the new starter graduate entry degree course.

Action

The Chief Executive of Morecambe Bay Health Authority is asked to implement the arrangements outlined above as they relate to the functions of the NHS Student Grants Unit.

Regional Directors of Education and Training and Consortium Managers are asked to implement those arrangements, in partnership with higher education institutions, as they relate to the functions of commissioners.

This Circular has been issued by:

HUGH TAYLOR

Director of Human Resources

NHS BURSARY RATES

TABLE 1

ORDINARY MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT

w.e.f 1.9.2000

Rate	Amount	
	Diploma Students	Other Students
	Requirement	Requirement
(A) London	5,645	2,335
Elsewhere	4,805	1,900
Home	4,805	1,555
Overseas:		
Higher Cost	}at the same rate	3,580
High Cost	}as for attendance	2,720
Others	}in the UK	1,900
(B) RELIGIOUS ORDERS		
London	5,645	1,255
Elsewhere	4,805	1,000
Home or Order's	4,805	730
House		
Overseas		
Higher Cost	}at the same rate	1,445
High Cost	}as for attendance	1,085
Others	}in the UK	885

TABLE 2

SUPPLEMENTARY MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENT

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

Rate	Amount (£ per week/part week)	
	Diploma Students	Other Students
		Requirement
LONDON	16.00	86
ELSEWHERE	-	65
HOME	-	45
OVERSEAS		
Higher Cost	-	121
High Cost	-	93
Others	-	65
CARE LEAVERS ⁽¹⁾	100.00	100

⁽¹⁾ Maximum; payable in respect of the longest vacation.

TABLE 3

CLINICAL PLACEMENT REQUIREMENT ⁽¹⁾

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

(pence per mile)

1. Allowable expenditure on overseas and placement travel and dual accommodation is reimbursable, subject to the following maxima:
2. In respect of the essential use of the student's own vehicle:
 - (a) pedal cycle 6.2
 - (b) motor vehicle up to 125cc 16.2
 - (c) other motor vehicle 23
 - (d) each official passenger (being a named **full bursary** holder) 2
 - (e) associated costs of parking, tolls and ferries for the purpose of attendance as described in paragraph 7(1)(a) and (b) actual reasonably and necessarily incurred

(1) The clinical placement requirement does not apply to disability-related expenditure.

TABLE 4

DEPENDANTS' ALLOWANCES

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

Rate	Amount (£ per year) ⁽²⁾			
	Diploma Students		Other Students	
	Requirement	General Disregard	Requirement	General Disregard
SPOUSE (or other adult dependant, or first child if there are no spouse or adult dependants)	1,800		2,125	
CHILD Aged ⁽¹⁾				
Under 11	380		445	
11 - 15	755	750	890	930
16 - 17	1,000		1,180	
18+	1,435		1,700	
Single Parent's Addition	890		1,050	
TWO HOMES	-		740	

(1) Age immediately before the beginning of the academic year, or born during that year.

(2) All allowances, except Two Homes, cover 52 weeks.

TABLE 5

OLDER STUDENTS' AND INITIAL EXPENSES ALLOWANCES

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

Rate	Amount (£ per year) ⁽³⁾			
	Diploma Students ⁽²⁾			Other Students
	London	Elsewhere	Home	
AGED ⁽¹⁾ 26	605	605	605	360
27	605	605	605	625
28	605	605	605	930
29+	605	605	605	1,225
INITIAL EXPENSES	55	55	55	-

(1) Age before the first day of the first academic year of the course.

(2) Payable to diploma students attending accelerated programmes for graduates, regardless of age.

(3) Allowance covers 52 weeks.

TABLE 6

DISABLED STUDENTS' ALLOWANCES

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

Rate	Maximum Allowance (£ per year) (except (2))	
	Diploma Students	Other Students
1. HELPER	-	10,505
2. EQUIPMENT	-	4,155 (for the duration of the course)
3. TRAVEL	-	actual reasonably and necessarily incurred
4. OTHER COSTS	-	1,385

TABLE 7

STUDENT LOANS

w.e.f. 1.9.2000

Old Award Holders and New Students with full NHS Bursaries⁽¹⁾

Full year	Maximum rate (£)
students living away from parental home	
in London	2,255
elsewhere	1,825
living at home or in a religious order's house.....	1,395
Final year	
students living away from home	
in London	1,645
elsewhere	1,330
living at home or in a religious order's house.....	1,020
Hardship loans ⁽²⁾	500

- Note:**
- (1) Reduced rate, non-means-tested student loans, subject to the above maxima, are available to students awarded full NHS Bursaries, other than those attending part-time, postgraduate level and nursing and midwifery diploma courses. **Applications should be made to the student's local education authority as far in advance of the start of the course as possible.** Students who started before 1 September 1998 should apply to their institution.
 - (2) Hardship loans are available to students starting on or after 1 September 1998 who have applied for their maximum student loan entitlement. Applications should be made via the student's institution.
 - (3) Students undertaking part-time courses and those studying at postgraduate level, are not eligible for student loans.