

NHS Guidance

Higher Education Student Finance in Wales 2017/18 Academic Year – Version 1.0 November 2017

Summary

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance for key delivery partners on Student Finance Wales (SFW) support for students undertaking NHS courses in Academic Year (AY) 2017/18.

References to the Regulations have been updated to refer to the Education (Student Support) (Wales) Regulations 2017. The Regulations may be subject to further amendments.

Disclaimer

This guidance is designed to assist with the interpretation of the Student Support Regulations as they stand at the time of publication. It does not cover every aspect of student support nor does it constitute legal advice or a definitive statement of the law. Whilst every endeavour has been made to ensure the information contained is correct at the time of publication, no liability is accepted with regard to the contents and the Regulations remain the legal basis of the student support arrangements for the academic year 2017/18. In the event of anomalies between this guidance and the Regulations, the Regulations prevail. Please note the Regulations are subject to amendment.

Please note this guidance is for Welsh domiciled students only.

Further Information

Annex	Content
A	Update Log
B	Authority Contact Details

Abbreviations

Abbreviation	Full
ADG	Adults Dependants' Grant
CCG	Childcare Grant
CCG1	Application for help with childcare costs
CCG2	Confirmation of childcare payments
CIS	Children's Information Service
CMS	Courses Management Service
CSSIW	Care and Social Services Inspectorate for Wales
CTC	Child Tax Credit
DH	Department of Health
DHSSP	Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety Northern Ireland
DSA	Disabled Students Allowances

ELQ	Equivalent or Lower Level Qualification
EYR	Early Years Register
GCR	General Childcare Register
HE	Higher Education
NHS	National Health Service
NWSSP	NHS Wales Shared Partnership Services
PLA	Parents' Learning Allowance
RRML	Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan
SAAS	Student Awards Agency Scotland
SFW	Student Finance Wales
SSG	Special Support Grant
TG	Travel Grant
UC	Universal Credit
WGLG	Welsh Government Learning Grant
WTC	Working Tax Credit
YSB	Young Students' Bursary

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1 General

1.1 NHS/Healthcare Bursaries

From AY 2017/18 the availability of NHS means tested bursaries or similar awards bestowed under Section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, Article 44 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 or Sections 73(f) of the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (as amended in 2009)*has changed. However the following guidance remains for the NHS and DoH bursaries which remain available to students on certain courses which lead to a qualification in healthcare roles. Bursaries can be non-income assessed or income-assessed, which impacts the SFW products students can apply for.

Students eligible to apply for a non-income assessed bursary are not eligible to apply for any SFW product.

Students eligible to apply for income assessed bursary will not be eligible to apply for support for tuition costs, (Regulation 19 (2)) or any grants (Regulation 23(3), however such students are eligible to apply to SFW for the non-means tested RRML for living costs(Regulation 52(i). The reduced rates of loan for living costs for AY 2017/18 are:

2012 Cohort

MAXIMUM RATES OF FULL YEAR LOAN	REDUCED LOANS (NHS Bursary Years)
Parental home	2,544
London	4,768
Elsewhere	3,392
Overseas	4,056
MAXIMUM RATES OF FINAL YEAR LOAN	
Parental home	1,934
London	3,646
Elsewhere	2,643
Overseas	2,965

From AY 2012 all new entrants to NHS funded courses receive the income assessed NHS Bursary and will also receive a non-means tested grant of £1,000 from the NHSBSA. These students can still apply for the RRML. From AY 2017/18 NHS and Healthcare bursaries will be removed for the majority of students studying on healthcare courses, please see the sections below for more information.

2 Nursing, Midwifery and Allied Health Professions Students

2.1 Courses Starting on or after 1st August 2017

2.1.1 Students Studying in Wales

The NHS bursary package will remain for Wales domiciled students studying Nursing, Midwifery and AHP courses in Wales. However, a new bursary eligibility requirement will be introduced for courses starting after the 1st of August 2017. Going forward students studying an eligible healthcare course in Wales must sign an agreement to work in the NHS in Wales for 2 years after course completion in order to be eligible for the bursary.

In Wales the AHPs are Chiropodists, Dieticians, Healthcare Scientists, Dental Hygiene Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Paramedics, Podiatrists, Physiotherapists, Radiographers and Speech and Language Therapists.

If a Wales domiciled student, agrees to the 2 year commitment they will be eligible to apply for the healthcare bursary from NHS Wales and they will only be able to access the RRML package from SFW (as per the guidance for pre 2017/18 courses below).

Alternatively, where an Wales domiciled student does not agree to the 2 year commitment, they will not be eligible to apply for the healthcare bursary and will be able to access the standard package of support from SFW.

The 2 year commitment criteria will be the responsibility of the NHS in Wales to administer. Students will be informed by the university when they accept a place on the course to visit the NWSSP Student Awards Service website (on the Welsh Health Education Registration System section) where they will be asked to confirm electronically and in writing their commitment to work in Wales on completion of the course.

This will then enable them to apply for the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme. If the student does not want to access the NHS Welsh Bursary Scheme and prefers to access a student loan, in order to receive the **FULL** student loan they will need a unique reference number which is **ONLY** generated by the Welsh Health Education Registration System. This will provide evidence to the student in order for SFW to establish they have not taken up the bursary in order for SFW to offer the full package of support.

In normal circumstances the student will not be able to change funding route, however in exceptional cases their application to change funding route will be considered through an appeals mechanism. If students do change and the NHS agrees, SFW will only re-assess these students for the relevant package from the next AY, unless there has been an error made in their initial assessment.

SFW are not responsible for students who breach the terms of their agreement with the NHS, either through withdrawal, transfer to a non bursary course or inability to complete the 2 year requirement. The NHS in Wales will make clear in their terms and conditions, how breaching the agreement will impact the student and are responsible for any follow up actions.

A sample check will be carried out retrospectively between the SFW and NHS Wales to ensure students are not being double funded. Students who have not taken up the Bursary may still be entitled to travel support from NHS Wales.

2.1.2 Students Studying In England

Students commencing study on Nursing, Midwifery and AHP courses after the 1st of August 2017 will no longer be eligible to apply for the NHS bursary, and will instead be entitled to the standard package of support under the regulations from SFW, including fee support, maintenance support and supplementary grants. For more information on the products available please see the "Assessing Financial Entitlement 2017/18 guidance chapter".

In England the AHP courses which will no longer attract a bursary are Chiropody, Dietetics and Nutrition, Occupational Therapy, Operating department practice, Orthoptics, Physiotherapy, Podiatry, Prosthetics and Orthotics, Radiography, Radiotherapy and Speech and language therapy.

Dental therapy and Dental Hygiene courses commencing in AY 17/18 will continue to attract the income assessed bursary and will be subject the same support arrangements as previously.

2.1.3 Students Studying in Scotland

From 2017/18 Welsh domiciled students studying on Nursing, Midwifery and AHP courses in Scotland will not be eligible for any of the previous healthcare bursaries. These students will be eligible for the standard package of support from SFW only.

2.1.4 Students Studying in Northern Ireland

From 17/18 AY Bursaries for Nursing, Midwifery and AHP will cease to be available to Wales Domiciled students at HEPs in Northern Ireland. The decision was made to prevent Wales domiciled students (as well as English and Scottish students) from accessing places on these courses and therefore support.

2.2 Courses Starting before 1st August 2017

2.2.1 Students Studying In Wales

Income assessed NHS Bursaries are available to most students on full or part-time courses leading to professional registration in:

- Chiropody
- Dental hygiene;
- Dental therapy;
- Dietetics;
- Healthcare Science;
- Midwifery;
- Nursing;
- Occupational therapy;
- Paramedic Science;
- Podiatry;
- Physiotherapy;
- Radiography;
- Speech and Language Therapy.

Please see:

<http://www.nwsspstudentfinance.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/documents/1132/BURSARY%20RATES%20FROM%20SEPT%202016.pdf>

for further details and up to date eligible subjects list.

Under Regulation 23(3), students are not eligible for grants for living and other costs for any AY during which they are eligible to apply for healthcare bursaries, NHS means tested bursaries or similar awards bestowed under Section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968, Article 44 of the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1972 or Sections 73(f) and the Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2004 (AS AMENDED IN 2009)*.

*In the case of the latter, only if granted in respect of a course leading to a qualification in a healthcare profession other than as a medical doctor or dentist). Students who are eligible to apply for income assessed NHS bursaries or income assessed Healthcare awards from the DoH are not eligible to apply to SFE for support for tuition, or any grants, however such students are eligible to apply to SFW for the reduced rate non-means tested, maintenance loan (Regulation 52(i)). The reduced rates of maintenance loan for AY 2017/18 can be found at [Section 1.1](#).

From 2012 all new entrants to NHS funded courses receive the income assessed NHS Bursary and will also receive a non-means tested grant of £1000 from the NHSBSA. This means that students can apply for the RRML.

2.2.2 Students Studying In England

The funding arrangements for students studying healthcare courses in England are the same as those in Wales in section 2.2.1. However the list of courses is:

- Chiropody;
- Dental hygiene;
- Dental therapy;
- Dietetics and Nutrition;
- Nursing – Diplomas and Degrees (including courses to convert from second to first level registration);
- Midwifery – Diplomas and Degrees;
- Occupational therapy;
- Operating department practice – Diplomas and Degrees;
- Orthoptics;
- Physiotherapy;
- Podiatry
- Prosthetics and orthotics;
- Radiography;
- Radiotherapy
- Speech and language therapy.

2.2.3 Students Studying in Scotland

Students studying Nursing and Midwifery courses at Scottish HEPs are eligible to apply for a **non**-income assessed bursary from SAAS, therefore they are ineligible for funding from SFW. This includes degree and diploma courses.

From AY 2013/14 SAAS changed the funding regime for new and continuing AHP students studying in Scotland and with the exception of Nursing and Midwifery students have made available the “Young Students’ Bursary (YSB)” and “Independent Students’ Bursary (ISB)”, income assessed bursaries that are available to all students in Scotland. Students from England, Wales and NI studying AHP courses in Scotland can apply for these bursaries; which have stricter means testing. Such students can apply to SFW for a reduced rate maintenance loan only as they remain in a bursary year; have their fees paid and can apply for a living costs bursary.

2.2.4 Students Studying in Northern Ireland

Students studying Nursing and Midwifery courses at Northern Irish HEPs (Queens University and University of Ulster) are eligible to apply for a non-income assessed bursary from DHSSPS NI, therefore they are ineligible for funding from SFW.

3 Medicine and Dentistry Students

3.1 Undergraduate Students

First time students on standard 5 or 6 year undergraduate medical and dental courses are eligible under the Regulations, to apply for support on the same terms as other full time students for the first four years of their course (subject to previous study). For the fifth and subsequent years of their course they apply to the NHS for tuition support and an income assessed NHS Bursary and to SFW for the RRML.

There are some exceptions to this rule: students who intercalate on to another HE qualification during the first four years of their course will only be in the fourth year of their medical or dental course when they reach their fifth year of study, but will still be eligible for the NHS bursary. Similarly, any students who undertook a foundation year as an integral part of their medical (or dental) course will be eligible for the NHS bursary in the fifth year of study. Students who repeat a year, however, will not be eligible for a NHS bursary until the fifth year of their course.

During the NHS Bursary year a RRML is available for the remainder of their medical or dental course. Where a graduate is undertaking an undergraduate 5 or 6 year medical or dental course, as a second degree, Regulation 7 (5) (a) provides that as an exception course the student can receive the maintenance loan from SFW, and the supplementary grants (n.b. grants for dependants, travel grants and DSAs are not subject to previous study or ELQ regulations).

3.2 Intercalation on a Medicine/Dentistry Course

Certain courses which are not higher than first degree level and which lead to more than one qualification, either as an optional or integral part of the course, will be considered to be single courses (Regulations 5(6) and (7)). These are:

- Medical and Dental courses which include an intercalated undergraduate first degree such as a BSc.

There is no undergraduate student funding provided during a year that a masters/postgraduate level course is intercalated into an undergraduate degree. A student can apply for a PGL from SFW should they wish. It should be noted however that if the student is awarded the masters qualification they will only be eligible for a RRML and supplementary grants from SFW when they return to the Medicine/Dentistry course before the fifth year of study. During the fifth year of study an NHS Bursary is available the student can therefore apply for a RRML.

3.3 Graduate Entry Medicine

The regulations provide that eligible students can apply for a tuition loan of up to £5,785 in all years of the course including the first year. Graduate entry medical and dental students are however still required to self fund the first £3,465 of the tuition charged in their 1st year. In years 2 to 4 of the course, the first £3,465 is paid as part of the income assessed NHS Bursary.

In year 1 students can apply for a means tested maintenance loan and supplementary grants and from year 2 to 4 of the course, as these students can apply for means tested NHS bursaries, they become eligible for the reduced rate maintenance loan.

4 Other Courses and Exceptions

4.1 *Foundation Years on NHS Courses (Year 0)*

Students studying 'year zero' of an NHS course (both degree and diploma level) do not receive an NHS bursary and are therefore eligible to apply to SFW for full support. This is true as long as the year zero (or foundation year) is an integrated part of an eligible HE course.

Once the student progresses into year one of their diploma or degree which is defined as a 'Bursary Year' they will become eligible for the income assessed NHS Bursary (subject to commitment to the 2 year tie in) and as a result be entitled to a reduced rate maintenance loan only from SFW for the remainder of their course.

4.2 *Paramedic Courses*

4.2.1 *Students Studying in Wales*

New students studying an eligible Paramedic course in Wales now must sign an agreement to work in the NHS in Wales for 2 years in order to be eligible for the healthcare bursary.

Where the student agrees to the 2 year tie in they are eligible to apply for the bursary, and will only receive the applicable RRML package from SFW. If the student chooses not to agree to the 2 year tie-in, they will not be eligible for the healthcare bursary and will qualify for the standard undergraduate package of support from SFW (subject to previous study rules).

Note: As this change is only affecting new students, students continuing on Nursing, Midwifery and AHP in 2017/18 will continue on the current healthcare bursary arrangements until they complete, abandon or withdraw from the course.

4.2.2 *Students Studying in England*

Students studying Paramedic Science at an English HEP are not able to apply to the NHS Grants Unit, however they may be eligible to receive funding from different parts of the NHS (e.g. Ambulance Service or Strategic Health Authority).

- If the student is awarded non-means tested funding under s.63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 then it is equivalent to a non-means tested NHS Bursary and therefore the student is ineligible for SFW support.
- If the student is studying at an English HEP and is awarded means tested funding under s.63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act, 1968 then it is equivalent to an Income Assessed NHS Bursary and the student is entitled to a Reduced Rate Maintenance Loan only from SFW.
- If the student is awarded funding outside of the above regulation then they are eligible for SFW support, however the student's Tuition Fee may still be paid for them.
- If the student is not eligible to apply for any funding from the Ambulance Service or Strategic Health Authority they are entitled to full SFW support.

4.3 *NHS Secondees*

The DH has confirmed that health care students who are employed by NHS trusts and seconded onto health care courses are not eligible for NHS Bursaries.

These students continue to receive their salary and have their tuition paid by the NHS. The payment of their fees is outside of the NHS Bursary scheme or Section 63 of the Health Services and Public Health Act 1968. As such these students are not excluded from the student support provisions and can therefore receive grants and loans for living costs on the same basis as other students, subject to them satisfying all the usual eligibility criteria.

Seconded NHS employees will have their fees paid by the NHS.

4.4 Social Work Courses

Social work courses do not attract an NHS or Health Care Bursary, instead they attract the Social Work Bursary.

Social Work Bursaries are not taken into account when assessing social work students and they are eligible to apply for the full support from SFW that is available for their cohort.

Where students study a joint Honours course in Nursing and Social Work and are eligible for an income assessed NHS Bursary, they should receive reduced RRML only from SFW. If the student is not eligible for the NHS Bursary portion (post august 2017) they will be eligible for the standard package of support.

4.5 Postgraduate

It is worth clarifying that postgraduate healthcare students starting courses on or after 1 August 2017 will be eligible for the bursary system.

5 ELQ and Previous Study

For detailed guidance on previous study please see the “Assessing Eligibility Guidance chapter 2017/18”.

Annex A

Related Documents:

<https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/media/196448/sfw-1718-assessing-eligibility-10.pdf>

Annex B

Annex C

Annex D