NWSSP
Frequently asked Questions regarding implications to changes to the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme

The Welsh Government through the NHS fund the education and training for a range of health education courses, (Appendix 1). There are a number of funding schemes of which one is the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme; The funding available through this scheme includes the following:

- the cost of tuition fees
- a bursary for living costs, including
  - a £1,000 non means tested grant,
  - a means tested bursary
  - In addition students are supported for costs such as travel, accommodation (whilst on placement), Childcare, Disabled Student Allowance, Dependants Allowance and Parental Learning Allowance.
- If eligible, you will have access to a reduced student loan (subject to Student Loans Company Regulations)

This is collectively known as the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme. The purpose of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme (“the Scheme”) is to provide financial support for students who are studying Health Education Courses and to incentivise them following qualification to work within the health care sector in Wales.

The bursary scheme for EU nationals includes the provision of tuition fees only. Students have to meet all other costs associated with studying in Wales. EU nationals who commit to work in Wales can access funding for tuition fees but will not be eligible to access the full NHS Wales Bursary Scheme. EU nationals who are unable to commit to work in Wales will have to secure funding for all tuition fees.

EU nationals that have been ordinarily resident in the UK for three years prior to the start of the course are eligible to the same package of support as UK nationals.

Students will have to record their intent on the NWSSP Student Awards Services Welsh Health Education Registration System.

Students commencing their studies in academic year from September 2017 and who commit to work in Wales for the two years following the completion of their course (different timescales apply for course longer or shorter than three years) will be able to access NHS funding as set out above to meet the cost of training.

Individuals who do not feel they can commit to this specified period of employment will not be eligible to receive the benefits of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme; however they will still be able to study in Wales and will be able to access the following support:

- Welsh domiciled students, who do not wish to commit to work in Wales on completion of their course, will have access to the standard student support package available from Student Finance Wales. Please note that individuals who already have a first degree and are undertaking a pre-registration programme e.g. Physicians Associate, MSc/PG Dip Nursing, PG Dip Dietetics and PG Dip Occupational Therapy programmes are not eligible to apply for a reduced student loan, however they will have access to all other elements of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme.
Non-Welsh domiciled students, who do not wish to commit to work in Wales will continue to be eligible to study in Wales but will need to secure funding from an alternative sources, this may include funding from the relevant funding body in their home country or self finance etc.

Once students have received an offer of a training place from a NHS Wales agreed provider they will need to decide whether they wish to commit to work in Wales prior to applying for either the NHS Wales Bursary or the standard student finance package.

Questions for Students:-

1. **Which courses are affected by the changes to the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?**
   
   *Response*
   
   This applies for those courses identified in Appendix 1 and for students commencing their studies from September 2017 onwards

2. **Is the commitment to work in Wales for 2 years on completion of my course, regardless of the length of my course?**
   
   *Response*
   
   The duration of the commitment to work in Wales varies, depending on the duration of your course. For example if your course is 3 years long, the commitment to work in Wales is 2 years, however the commitment would be lowered to 18 months if your course was only 2 years. See clause 10.1 of the Bursary Terms and Conditions which details the commitment duration required for each course (“Required Period”).

3. **Do I have to be a Welsh resident to access the NHS Wales Bursary scheme?**
   
   *Response*
   
   No.

4. **I am Welsh and I want to study outside of Wales, can I access the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme if I commit to work in Wales on completion?**
   
   *Response*
   
   No, the Welsh NHS bursary is only available for students studying in Wales and who have committed to work in Wales for the “Required Period” of time on completion of their course.

5. **Once I have accepted funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme can I change my mind and apply for a full student loan?**
   
   *Response*
   
   In normal circumstances you will not be able to change funding route, however in exceptional cases your application to change funding route will be considered through an appeals mechanism.

6. **What is the deadline for applying for funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?**
   
   *Response*
   
   You should apply for your NHS bursary - [http://www.nwsspstudentfinance.wales.nhs.uk/home](http://www.nwsspstudentfinance.wales.nhs.uk/home) as soon you have firmly accepted an offer from your chosen university. The latest date for applying for funding is ten weeks after commencing the course.

7. **What if I don’t apply for the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme within the timeframe stipulated above?**
   
   *Response*
   
   You will not be able to apply for an NHS Bursary.

8. **Once I have accepted a student loan can I change my mind and apply for funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?**
   
   *Response*
   
   In normal circumstances you will not be able to change funding route, however in exceptional cases your application to change funding route will be considered through an appeals mechanism.
In normal circumstances you will not be able to change funding route, however in exceptional cases your application to change funding route will be considered through an appeals mechanism.

9. Will the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme or full student loan provide me with a greater income whilst studying?
   Response
   This will depend on your individual circumstances; you will need to consider your eligibility for funding against the criteria for both systems:
   
   www.nwsspstudentfinance.wales.nhs.uk/home
   www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/

10. What is the process for confirming my commitment to work in Wales on completion of the course?
    Response
    You will be informed by the university when you accept a place on the course to visit the NWSSP Student Awards Service website (on the Welsh Health Education Registration System section) where you will be asked to confirm electronically your commitment to work in Wales on completion of your course. This will then enable you to apply for the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme. Confirmation of the commitment to work in Wales must be done within 10 weeks of commencement of the health education course.

11. What is the Welsh Health Education Registration System?
    Response
    This is the system where ALL students register their intention to undertake a health education course and where you will be asked whether you wish to commit to work in Wales on completion of your course.

    The link is: www.nwsspstudentfinance.wales.nhs.uk/home

12. Do I have to register on the Welsh Health Education Registration System if I do not wish to commit to work in Wales?
    Response
    Yes, if you do not want to access the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and prefer to access a student loan, please be aware that all Welsh Health funded courses attract a REDUCED student loan (except for those programmes which are not eligible for the reduced student loan – see Appendix 1). In order to receive the FULL student loan you will need a unique reference number which is ONLY generated by the Welsh Health Education Registration System.

13. What will happen if I do not register on the Welsh Health Education Registration System?
    Response
    You will NOT be eligible to apply for the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and will not be eligible to apply for access to the Student Finance Wales arrangements.

14. If I do not want to access the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme who do I apply to for student finance?
    Response
    This will depend on the arrangements in your home country. You will first have to register on the Welsh Health Education Registration System and confirm that you do not wish to commit to work in Wales on completion.

    ➢ If your home country is Wales you can apply to Student Finance Wales to access the student loans system www.studentfinancewales.co.uk. Please note this does not apply to
Physicians Associate PG Dip, MSc/PG Dip Nursing, PG Dip Dietetics and PG Dip Occupational Therapy programmes

- If your home country is England please go to [www.gov.uk/conact-student-finance-england](http://www.gov.uk/conact-student-finance-england)
- If your home country is Scotland please go to [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)
- If your home country is Northern Ireland please go to [www.studentfinanceni.co.uk](http://www.studentfinanceni.co.uk)

15. If I have received funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme what penalties will be applied if I do not fulfil my commitment to work in Wales on completion?

**Response**

You will be liable to repay an element/all of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme funding provided to date. Travel, additional accommodation, childcare costs, disabled students allowance, dependents allowance, and parental learning allowance will be excluded from this. See Appendix 2 for further detail.

16. If I do not receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme can I access the NHS support system for travel and accommodation?

**Response**

Yes as we want to ensure all students receive a positive experience of education in Wales.

17. Am I entitled to a second student loan to undertake a health care course either in Wales or England?

**Response**

If you are a Welsh resident you are only entitled to one student loan. You will need to contact the funding body in your home country if you live outside of Wales to determine what arrangements are available to you. However you can access the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme even if you have had a student loan to undertake a first degree.

18. If I receive the NHS Wales Bursary, and I undertake an interruption of study, how will I be funded when I return?

**Response**

If you have an interruption of studies your bursary will cease however the same funding arrangement will recommence on your return.

19. If I receive the NHS Wales Bursary and I am asked to leave the course (academic failure, placement failure, fitness to practice or ill health prior to its completion, will I have to repay funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?

**Response**

No, you will not be liable to make any repayment.

20. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and then decide to leave the course as it is not the right course for me, will I have to repay the funds from the NHS Wales Bursary scheme?

**Response**

Yes, you will be liable to repay an element of the funding you have received through the NHS Wales Bursary scheme. This will be on a sliding scale to reflect the costs incurred to date. The scale is set out in Appendix 2.

21. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme can I transfer to another course in the university?

**Response**

This will have to be agreed with the university and the commissioners in advance. If the new course is funded by the NHS (Appendix 1) your funding may continue. If the course is not one funded by the NHS or all of the places commissioned by Welsh Government are full, you will be classified as discontinuing your course and liable to repay an element of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme.
22. **If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme can I transfer to another course in Wales?**

   **Response**
   This will have to be agreed by both universities and the commissioner in advance. If the course is funded by the NHS (Appendix 1) your funding may continue. If the course is not one funded by the NHS you will be classified as discontinuing your course and liable to repay an element of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme.

23. **If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme can I transfer to another course outside of Wales?**

   **Response**
   Yes, but you will be classified as discontinuing your course and liable to repay an element of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme.

24. **If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme what will happen if there are not sufficient jobs available in Wales? Will I be released from my obligation to work in Wales?**

   **Response**
   NWSSP will work with your university and employers within Wales. Every effort will be made to ensure suitable employment opportunities are available.

25. **If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme what qualifies as employment in Wales?**

   **Response**
   Employment in Wales must be in the profession for which you have undertaken the education course. Employment includes:

   - Minimum of 22.5 hours per week, unless there are exceptional circumstances which may be agreed on an individual basis with the commissioners
   - Based within Wales
   - A combination of employment

   Employment can be in a range of settings i.e.:

   a) Any NHS Health Board or Trust e.g.
      a. Hospital settings
      b. Community
      c. Managed GP practices
   b) A Welsh Primary care contractor
      i. GP practices
      ii. Mental health services
   c) Another NHS Wales funded training course e.g.
      a. Health Visiting
      b. Midwifery
      You will have to complete 2 years employment following completion of the second course
   d) Working for a Local Authority
   e) Charitable health care providers e.g.
      i. Ty Hafan
      ii. Hospices
   f) Welsh HMS Prison healthcare services
   g) Engagement through an NHS Wales bank system
   h) Nursing home within Wales
26. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme, and on finishing the course commence another NHS Wales Funded training scheme, how does this affect my commitment to work in Wales?

Response
The employment period of the first course will be waived if you undertake a second NHS Wales funded training programme e.g. Health Visiting straight away. However, at the point of completing the second course you will be required to work in Wales for a 2 year period.

27. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and I leave my employment in Wales before 2 years would I have to repay anything?

Response
Yes, this will be calculated on the sliding scale, as set out in Appendix 2, to reflect the amount of time you will have worked in Wales.

28. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and I change employment in Wales during the first 2 years does this have any implications?

Response
Providing it meets the requirements as set out in question 25 above then there will be no implications.

29. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and become pregnant during the first 2 years following completion and am on maternity leave are there any implications?

Response
If you are in employment as identified above and are on maternity leave it will have no affect on your agreement.

30. If I receive funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme and I suffer ill health and am unable to work during the first 2 years following completion what are the implications for me?

Response
This will be considered on a case by case basis.

31. If I become liable to repay all or part of the funding I received from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme how will this be managed?

Response
The debt becomes repayable in full within 3 months of being notified. It is the individual’s responsibility to fund such a repayment.
## Courses and location of delivery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Provision in Wales</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Provision in England</th>
<th>Courses funded by Welsh Government and subject to the commitment to work in Wales</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DipHE Paramedic Science</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DipHE Dental Hygiene</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc in Dental Hygiene &amp; Therapy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/BN Adult Nursing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/BN Adult Nursing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/BN Mental Health Nursing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/BN Learning Disability Nursing</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University University of South Wales</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BMid Midwifery</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University University of South Wales</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MSc/PG Dip Nursing**</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University Bangor university</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Cardiac Physiology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Audiology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Respiratory and Sleep Science</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Neurophysiology</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Nuclear Medicine &amp; Radiotherapy Physics</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Swansea University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course</td>
<td>Provision in Wales</td>
<td>Provider</td>
<td>Provision in England</td>
<td>Courses funded by Welsh Government and subject to the commitment to work in Wales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc (Hons) Healthcare Science - Biomedical Science - Blood, Infection, Cellular and Genetics</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff Metropolitan University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Diagnostic Radiography</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Therapeutic Radiography</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/PG Dip** Dietetics</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff Metropolitan University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc/PG Dip** Occupational Therapy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University Glyndwr University (BSc route only)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Operational Department Practice</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Physiotherapy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSc Podiatry</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff Metropolitan University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>BSc Speech &amp; Language Therapy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Cardiff Metropolitan University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
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<tr>
<td>PG Dip/MSc Physicians Associate Studies **</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Bangor University</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** Individuals who already have a first degree and are undertaking a pre-registration programme at MSc/PG Dip level will have access to the NHS bursary package but no access to the reduced student maintenance loan.
# Schedule 2: Repayment Schedule – UK Students

## Repayment Schedule for Non-Compliance with NHS Wales Bursary Scheme Funding Agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Amount of Funding repayable ***</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 year course</td>
<td>2 year course</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Complete studies but do not work in Wales in accordance clauses 10.1 and 12.1.2 of the Terms and Conditions.</td>
<td>£25,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Leave employment as set out in clauses 10.4 and 12.1.3 of the Terms and Conditions prior to fulfilling the employment commitment.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>Leave within the first 6 months</td>
<td>£25,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>Leave after 6 months but before 1 year service completed</td>
<td>£19,125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>Leave after 1 year but before 18 months service completed</td>
<td>£12,750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td>Leave after 18 months but before 2 years service completed</td>
<td>£8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Leave after 2 years service</td>
<td>NIL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Leave course as set out in clauses 8.1 and 12.1.1 of the Terms and Conditions.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>During first year</td>
<td>£8,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>During second Year</td>
<td>£17,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>During third year</td>
<td>£25,500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Schedule 3: Repayment Schedule – EU Students who have not been domicile within the UK for a period of three years prior to the submission of their funding application

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount of Funding repayable</th>
<th>3 year course</th>
<th>2 year course</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| 1 | Complete studies but do not work in Wales in accordance clauses 10.1 and 12.1.2 of the Terms and Conditions. | £22,500 | £15,000* |

| 2 | Leave employment as set out in clauses 10.4 and 12.1.3 of the Terms and Conditions prior to fulfilling the employment commitment. | £22,500 | £15,000 |
| i | Leave within the first 6 months | £22,500 | £15,000 |
| ii | Leave after 6 months but before 1 years service completed | £16,875 | £11,250 |
| iii | Leave after 1 year but before 18 months service completed | £11,250 | £7,500 |
| iv | Leave after 18 months but before 2 years service completed | £7,500 | NIL |
| v | Leave after 2 years service | NIL | NIL |

| 3 | Leave course as set out in clauses 8.1 and 12.1.1 of the Terms and Conditions. | £7,500 | £7,500 |
| i | During first year | £7,500 | £7,500 |
| ii | During second Year | £15,000 | £15,000 |
| iii | During third year | £22,500 | n/a |

* This excludes PG Dip Dietetics as separate funding model applies