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Medical & Dental Bursary

Frequently Asked Questions

Sections:

1. Eligibility
2. Payment Queries
3. Practice Placement Expenses



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Student Awards Services

Questions	Response
1. Eligibility	
<p>I am from Wales; however, I am thinking of taking up a course in England, would you fund this?</p>	<p>Yes – But only if it is a Medicine or Dentistry course.</p> <p>For example, if you wanted to enrol in a Nursing course in England, we would be unable to support you with funding for this.</p>
<p>When can I apply for my NHS bursary funded course</p>	<p>Your university will provide the term dates for your course. When received Student Awards Services will enter the dates on to our system. if you can't find your course/University on the system the term dates wouldn't have been received. Please contact us with any queries.</p> <p>This applies to new and continuing students</p>
<p>If I am studying Medicine or Dentistry, am I bound to the NHS Wales Terms & Conditions?</p>	<p>No, Medical and Dental Students are not required to commit to the NHS Wales Terms & Conditions. Upon registration, you will be asked:</p> <p>'Are you undertaking a course to become a doctor or a dentist?'</p> <p>By answering 'Yes' to this question, you will not be asked to commit to the Terms & Conditions.</p>
<p>Can I apply for a course if I already have completed a Degree?</p>	<p>If you have completed a previous Non-NHS Wales funded degree, you will be eligible to apply for the NHS Wales Bursary.</p> <p>If you have already received an NHS Wales Bursary for a Medical Degree, then you will need to seek alternative funding should you wish to enrol in a new Medical course.</p>

<p>In which year of my Medical or Dental course am I able to apply for NHS Wales Bursary funding?</p>	<p>If you are a Welsh domiciled medical or dental student, you should apply to Student Awards Services for the year that you are due to be funded by NHS Wales. You should not apply to us at the start of your course.</p> <p>The year(s) that we fund will depend on your course and circumstances but please use the below as guidance: -</p> <p>Five or more years pre-registration course</p> <p>In general, undergraduate medical/dental students would be eligible to apply for NHS Wales funding from their 5th year of study onwards. This is regardless of which year of your medical/dental course programme you are up to.</p> <p>The years classed as 'study' years can include an intercalation year if you study at Bachelor's or Masters level and a foundation year if it was an integral part of your course. However, we will not account for any repeated years, meaning if you repeat one of your Non-NHS funded years, you will have to wait an additional study year before you can apply to us.</p> <p>If you are exempt from the earlier years of the undergraduate medical/dental course, irrespective of which year you join the course, you will be able to apply for NHS funding from year 5 of the course programme.</p> <p>Accelerated pre-registration course for graduates with relevant prior learning.</p> <p>If you are attending the accelerated 4 year graduate entry programme, you can apply for NHS funding from year 2 of the course.</p>
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<p>During my Medical / Dental course, am I entitled to the Extra Weeks Allowance?</p>	<p>If the academic year consists of more than 30 eligible weeks of study, you may be entitled to the Extra Weeks Allowance.</p> <p>The university in which you are attending your studies will need to provide us with your term dates. Once we have received and processed your term dates, we will add any Extra Weeks Allowance awarded to you.</p> <p>Please be aware the Extra Weeks Allowance is part of the means tested element of the bursary.</p>
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<p>Will I be eligible for funding if I repeat part of my Medical / Dental course?</p>	<p>You can only be considered for repeat funding, including tuition fees, if you are repeating one of the years that is NHS funded.</p> <p>For example, if you are on a 5 Year undergraduate medical / dental course but you fail the 4th year, we would not consider any funding for this as you are repeating a Non-NHS funded year. Repeat study years undertaken before you are eligible to apply for a bursary will not be counted towards the required fifth year of study.</p> <p>The same rules apply to the accelerated 4 Year graduate entry programme where repeat funding would not be available from us if you were repeating year 1.</p> <p>If you are repeating an NHS funded year, you may be considered for extended funding where there are extenuating circumstances only. Your University will need to complete a BUR 103 – Extension Request outlining the circumstances and provide supporting documentary evidence for consideration. These BUR's then go to Welsh Government for approval before we can authorize additional funding.</p>
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2. Payment Queries

<p>Who pays the tuition fees for a medical or dental course?</p>	<p>Welsh Government pay a tuition fee contribution directly to your university or Medical / Dental school for the academic years that you have qualified for NHS Wales funding.</p> <p>The maximum tuition fee loan will increase from September 2025 to £9,535 for students who are ordinarily resident in Wales who study in Wales England,</p> <p>For Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) the fee contribution for NHS Bursary funded students will be £4000 for the 25/26 academic year onwards.</p> <p>You should show your University your Notification of Award (NOA) to prove your eligibility for this contribution and the university can then</p>
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		<p>invoice Student Awards Services for the cost. Once the invoice has been reviewed, the SAS team will send this on to Welsh Government to process.</p> <p>You must be in attendance up to and including 1 December on the relevant academic year to be eligible, therefore we will not accept any invoices sent prior to this.</p>
	Who is responsible for paying the NHS Wales Medical & Dental Bursary?	<p>Student Awards Services is responsible for processing applications and sending confirmation of all approved payments to Cardiff University to process.</p> <p>Cardiff University is then responsible for making the payments to Students, regardless of which University you are studying in.</p>
	When is the NHS Wales Medical & Dental Bursary paid?	<p>The NHS Wales Medical & Dental Bursary is paid in 3 equal instalments over the academic year.</p> <p>The first instalment is paid in September, the second in January and the final in April.</p>
	Is there specific payment dates in the year that the NHS Wales Medical & Dental Bursary will be paid?	<p>No – The payments are not made on a specific date, however, will usually be paid around the start of the month.</p>
	Why have my payments stopped?	<p>Your payments will stop if you are on an interruption of study or have withdrawn from your course.</p> <p>Alternatively, it may be because we have not received a new application from you for the latest Academic year. Before the start of each Academic year, a new application must be completed and submitted to secure any future funding.</p>

If your payments have stopped and you are unsure why, please contact us via email or phone and we can investigate this for you.

Intercalating Courses

Would you fund an intercalation year for Medical / Dental students?

Undergraduate Medical or Dental students

If you are intercalating to undertake a course at Bachelors or Masters level (but not a PhD), you may be eligible for NHS Bursary funding from your 5th year of study onwards, regardless of when your intercalation year occurs.

Examples:

Year 1 medical course SLC funding
Year 2 medical course SLC funding
Year 3 medical course SLC funding
Year 4 medical course SLC funding

Year 5 intercalating NHS funding
Year 6 medical course NHS funding

Year 1 medical course SLC funding
Year 2 medical course SLC funding
Year 3 intercalating SLC funding
Year 4 medical course SLC funding

Year 5 medical course NHS funding
Year 6 medical course NHS funding

Graduate entry Medical or Dental students

You may be eligible for NHS Bursary funding from your second year of study onwards, regardless of when your intercalation year occurs.

Example:

Year 1 medical course SLC funding
Year 2 medical course NHS funding
Year 3 medical course NHS funding
Year 4 intercalating NHS funding
Year 5 medical course NHS funding

If you intercalate to undertake a 2 or 3 Year course at PhD level, you will not be eligible for NHS Bursary support during this period, however you may be eligible for NHS funding for more than one period of intercalation.

How do I select my course details if I am applying for an intercalation year within a medical or dental course?

If you are applying for your bursary for a year in which you are intercalating, you must select the course title which includes 'intercalation'.

Example:

Medical (Intercalation) – 12 months

		<p>If you have selected an intercalation course, intercalation will be available to select as a course year from the drop-down menu in the system.</p> <p>If you are intercalating at a different university to your main one, please select the university where you are intercalating for that specific year and then when you return to your main university for the final year please select your original main university for your final year of study to conclude the process.</p>
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3. Practice Placement Expenses

	Who can claim?	All NHS Wales funded students in receipt of a Notification of Award from NHS Wales Student Awards Services are eligible to claim.
	What travel expenses may I claim?	<p>You may only claim for travel between your term time or practice placement address and your practice placement site. You may also claim for any additional mileage/travel costs, if you have to travel in the community to other practice placement sites, and/or to patient's home address if you are not given free transport. You should use the cheapest form of transport available for your journeys, taking full advantage of any free and concessionary schemes. If you travel by public transport, you may claim the costs of your fares, including carriage of luggage and bicycles. (NB the cost of taxis is only allowable in exceptional circumstances. The cost of airfares is prohibited). You will need to keep all receipts (i.e. bus/train tickets, parking, tunnel and toll receipts) and attach these to your claim as proof of the journeys undertaken. Claims not accompanied by receipts will not be refunded.</p>
	How do I apply for travel and accommodation expenses?	<p>You will need to download a PPE (Practice Placement Expenses) Claim Form from our website and complete all the relevant sections. Once you have done this, you need to send it to the Practice Placement Officer at your university along with any supporting evidence clearly marked with your SAS reference number Your university is then responsible for verifying the evidence and emailing it back to the Student Awards inbox ABM.SAS@wales.nhs.uk.</p> <p>Once received, the Student Awards Services will process your application and contact you should they have any further questions.</p>

		<p>Along with the form, they will be required to provide a cover email verifying the costs.</p> <p>It is up to the university to decide if the travel costs are relevant, and we therefore require their authorisation to make any payments.</p> <p>You should also ensure that your reference number is clearly completed in the box provided. You cannot make a claim for placement costs in advance of your placement.</p>
	Is there a time limit for claiming travel and accommodation expenses?	Yes - Your Practice Placement Expense (PPE) claim form must be received by us within 6 months of the last day of each placement to be considered.
	Can I have expenses reimbursed for an Elective placement?	If your Elective is in the UK, then we can reimburse the travel costs but if the Elective is outside of the UK, then we can only reimburse your travel to and from a UK airport.
	Can I have consumables and vaccination costs reimbursed for an Elective placement?	No - we do not reimburse consumables and vaccination costs for an Elective placement.
	Can I claim expenses for taking a passenger to a placement?	You can only claim for a passenger who is also funded by NHS Wales but you can't claim for a passenger who is funded through NHS England, Scotland or Northern Ireland.
	When will my Practice Placement Expenses (PPE) claim be paid?	<p>Practice Placement Expenses (PPE) claims will be processed within 20 working days from the point we receive the scanned form from the Document Scanning Team or the University.</p> <p>Once the claim has been processed you will receive an email confirming the amount due and that Cardiff University will make the payment to your account within 4 weeks from the date of the email.</p>
	Can I use my own motor vehicle?	<p>Yes, you can use your own vehicle or bicycle, and you may claim the following mileage rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Bicycle 20 pence per mile - Motor vehicles 27 pence per mile

		<p>confirmation from your insurers that you have adequate cover for all costs and claims and that no liability is placed on your university or any NHS body and notify your university accordingly.</p> <p>You may claim the following mileage rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bicycle 20 pence per mile • Motor vehicles 27 pence per mile
	<p>Can I claim other costs?</p>	<p>The costs of taxis are not allowable unless, exceptionally, your university certifies by letter that they were unavoidably incurred, in which case, reimbursement of taxi fares will be limited to the maximum motor vehicle rate (i.e. 27 pence per mile). The costs of tips, refreshments, sleeper berths and phone calls, and of any other expenses which are related to your placement, are not allowable and therefore will not be reimbursed. The costs of airfares are not allowable, but you can claim for travel by public transport between your term time UK residence and UK airport, subject to providing appropriate receipts.</p>
	<p>Will my bursary be increased whilst I am on placement?</p>	<p>The level of bursary you receive is in part determined by where you live during term time. Students who live with their parents receive the "Home" rate, those who do not receive either the "Elsewhere" rate or, if they are studying in London, the "London" rate. Your bursary, together with any assessed contribution and Student Loan (where applicable), is intended to meet your normal day-to-day living costs, including term-time accommodation. However, if you have to move away from your term-time address to attend a clinical placement, your bursary may be temporarily increased.</p> <p>For example: If you normally live with your parents but have to move away whilst on placement, your bursary may be uplifted to the "Elsewhere" rate if your placement is outside London, or the "London" rate if your placement is in London. If you normally get the "Elsewhere" rate but have to move to London to undertake a placement, your bursary may be uplifted to the "London" rate.</p>