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Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

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Regulations implementing these changes for the 2018 to 2019 academic year were laid on 6 February 2018, alongside an explanatory memorandum.

The following information is subject to parliamentary approval:

## 1. Postgraduate students

From August 2018 new postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health professional students will access loans from the Student Loans Company. Accessing loans will provide these students with at least 25% more up-front living cost support while they study. They will have access to the Learning Support Fund, administered by the NHS Business Services Authority, for support while attending clinical placements.

## 2. Dental hygiene and dental therapy students

From August 2018, most pre-registration dental hygiene and dental therapy students will be able to access loans. This will enable them to be at least 25% better off while they study, and to have access to the Learning Support Fund.

For the cohort starting in 2018 to 2019 only, students at 5 institutions will continue to have access to an NHS bursary for the duration of their course. These providers will be required to reform their courses to fit the standard model from August 2019.

### 3. Background to the changes

On 1 August 2017 the government implemented the [revised funding system](#) for nursing, midwifery and some allied health professional students. Most new students are now funded through the standard loans system rather than through the NHS bursary scheme.

For new postgraduate pre-registration students and most dental hygiene and dental therapy students, changes from August 2018 bring support in line with changes made in August 2017 for other healthcare students.

The aim of the reforms is to provide a more sustainable model for universities while increasing the supply of nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to the NHS.

To support students while undertaking the clinical placement element of their studies, the government is providing non-repayable grants. The Learning Support Fund administered through the NHS Business Services Authority makes available:

- £1,000 Child Dependants Allowance
- up to £3,000 for exceptional hardship
- reimbursement of additional travel and accommodation costs over normal daily travel to clinical placements

A revised economic impact assessment was published in July 2016 as part of the government's consultation response [Reforming healthcare education funding: creating a sustainable future workforce](#).

Following implementation of the policy, the intention is to look for suitable opportunities, including through existing stakeholder forums, to monitor developments.

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