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SUPPORT FOR **NURSING**
AND MIDWIFERY STUDENTS
IN SCOTLAND 2019/20



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Government

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INTRODUCTION

This booklet provides information for students on pre-registration Nursing and Midwifery courses in Scotland.

It describes the Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary (NMSB) Scheme in Scotland, who is eligible for it, what it is (including current rates) and how you can apply for it. This booklet is for guidance only. It cannot cover all individual circumstances. The scheme is administered by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

If you are a new Scottish student enrolling to study nursing or midwifery in England, Wales or Northern Ireland you are not eligible for this package. You should apply for the general undergraduate package on the SAAS website.

If you are from England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you are not eligible to apply for this package. You should apply to the funding body in your home country for support.

ELIGIBILITY

Students' eligibility is governed by the Nursing and Midwifery Student Allowances (Scotland) Regulations 2007. This booklet is only intended to guide students to the main eligibility criteria set out in these regulations; it is not intended to be exhaustive.

Students undertaking courses in pre-registration nursing and midwifery leading to the award of a degree may be eligible for a bursary under the NMSB scheme. Eligibility for support depends on THREE conditions:

- that your course is eligible;
- that you have not had previous NMSB funding; and
- that you meet the residence requirements.

COURSE ELIGIBILITY

Bursaries are for eligible students attending courses which:

- ➔ lead to registration on the Professional Register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), which may include degree, honours and masters levels; and
- ➔ are partly or wholly funded by the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates (SGHSCD).

FUNDING ELIGIBILITY

You may not be eligible for a bursary if you have been in receipt of NMSB funding in the past for a pre-registration nursing or midwifery course; eligibility will depend on the type and level of funding previously received.

STUDENTS RESIDENT IN UK COUNTRIES – RECIPROCAL ARRANGEMENT

- ➔ Following the decision of the UK Government to remove the health bursary and move to a loans-based support package for nursing and midwifery, students from England, Wales or Northern Ireland, who started their course from 2017/18 and thereafter and choose to study in Scotland, should apply to their home country funding body for the tuition fee and income-assessed living cost loan for living cost support.
- ➔ New Scottish students who started their course from 2017/18 and thereafter and choose to study nursing or midwifery in England, Wales or Northern Ireland, will not be able to access the non-repayable, non-income-assessed NMSB package. Instead these students should apply to SAAS for the standard undergraduate package of a tuition fee loan and an income-assessed living cost loan while studying nursing and midwifery in other UK countries. Students can also apply for an Independent Students' Bursary, Young Students' Bursary and other living-cost grants, where eligible.
- ➔ Continuing students from England, Wales or Northern Ireland, who started their Nursing or Midwifery course before the 2017/18 Academic Year, will continue to be entitled to the bursary and have tuition fees paid. These funding arrangements will continue until you complete your studies. However, you will not be entitled to apply for a tuition fee or income-assessed living cost loan from your home country if you are in receipt of the Scottish NMSB.

RESIDENCE ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for the NMSB you must have been ordinarily resident* in the UK for the three years immediately before the relevant date (the first day of the first academic year of the course), and ordinarily resident in Scotland on the relevant date. This date will be 1 August 2019. You must also be on a course that leads to registration on the Professional Register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC).

Generally to qualify for support you must be:

- ➔ ordinarily resident (see Note 1 below) in the UK, Channel Islands or Isle of Man, for three years immediately before the first day of the first academic year of the course;
- ➔ settled in the UK as described in the Immigration Act 1971;
- ➔ ordinarily resident in Scotland on the first day of the first academic year of the course; and
- ➔ studying full-time in higher education.

If you don't meet the general residence conditions above, you may still be eligible to apply to SAAS for funding in certain circumstances.

The residence eligibility conditions can be complicated. If you are in any doubt about your residence status, you should contact SAAS for advice or visit their website for more information.

*Note 1.

Ordinarily resident has been defined in the courts as 'habitual and normal residence in one place'. It basically means that you live in a country year after year by choice through a set period, apart from temporary or occasional absences such as holidays or business trips. Living here totally or mainly for the purpose of receiving full-time education does not count as being ordinarily resident.

STUDENTS FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION

Eligible EU students will only receive tuition fee support. As such they do not need to apply to SAAS as their university will handle payment of fees for eligible EU students.

If you do not meet the conditions above, you may still be eligible to apply to us for funding in certain circumstances. If you are in any doubt about your residence status, you should contact SAAS for advice or visit their website for more information.

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SUPPORT FOR NHS EMPLOYEES WHO ENTER NURSING AND MIDWIFERY EDUCATION

Healthcare assistants entering the pre-registration programme after successfully completing an HNC in Healthcare may be offered the option of secondment from their NHS employers or they may apply for bursary support.

You may not receive your salary and a bursary at the same time. If you opt to take your salary, and subsequently wish to apply for a bursary, you may not do so until the next year of the course. You may not change your support arrangements during the year.

SECONDMENT

NHS employers may allow staff a period of secondment to undertake a nursing or midwifery course on the basis of their existing pay and conditions. In these cases, you will not be able to apply for bursary support. Your employer must decide whether to allow a secondment, however, employees do not have a right to secondment on these terms. If your employer is unable to agree to secondment, you may choose to resign in order to undertake the course. In this case, you may be eligible for a bursary.

IF YOU ARE A FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE SECONDED BY AN NHS BOARD YOU SHOULD:

- receive the basic pay for the post held immediately before start of training, and qualify for increments;
- keep your existing liability for tax and National Insurance;
- be eligible to join or remain in the NHS Superannuation and Injury Benefits Schemes;
- keep your existing rights under Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Services, with modifications to reflect your student status, e.g. annual leave; and
- be expected to undergo exactly the same educational programmes as other students.

YOU AND YOUR EMPLOYER SHOULD ALSO HAVE A CLEAR AGREEMENT ABOUT:

- whether or not you will be expected to work, or be given the opportunity to work, for your employer as a qualified nurse or midwife on completion of the course;
- how long you will be expected to do such work; and
- what will happen if you fail to complete the course.

Your employer must meet your travel and subsistence expenditure during practice placements.

PART-TIME EMPLOYEES SECONDED BY AN NHS BOARD

Part-time employees seconded to nursing courses should not suffer financially. Again, it is for your employer to decide whether you should be seconded on your existing part-time salary, or an enhanced salary, to take account of the fact that nursing and midwifery courses are full time.

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THE BURSARY

The bursary is for the normal duration of the course that you are undertaking. If you are taking the four-year honours degree course and you are eligible for a bursary, you will receive the full bursary rate for years 1-3 and a 75% bursary for year 4. This reduction also applies to the associated income-assessed allowances (outlined on pages 11-13). This is because year 4 does not cover the full 52 weeks.

The bursary covers the whole year and is a **non-income-assessed personal allowance**.

For 2019/20, the rate is:

- ➔ **£8,100** for students at the start of the course.

STUDENTS MAY ALSO BE ELIGIBLE FOR ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING ALLOWANCES:

- ➔ **£60** Initial Expenses Allowance. This will be included in the first instalment of the bursary.

An income-assessed Dependent's Allowance, where appropriate. The maximum amounts you can receive through this allowance are:

- ➔ **£3,640** for a spouse or cohabitating partner or, if you are single, one adult you have a legal responsibility for with little or no income from any sources.
- ➔ **£3,640** for the first child where there is no dependent husband or wife, or other dependent adult.
- ➔ **£557** for each other dependent child.

You may claim this allowance for your spouse or cohabiting partner, dependent children and any younger brothers or sisters for whom you have a legal responsibility. If any of these dependents have income of their own, the total amount will be taken into account, but £1,160 will be allowed against the income your dependents have.

For example, if you are married with 2 children and your spouse has income, $3 \times £1,160 = £3,480$ will be deducted from your spouse's income when calculating the Allowance you should receive. What is left of your spouse's income following the deduction of £3,480 will reduce the amount payable pound for pound.

Allowance is paid provisionally and SAAS will reassess your allowance at the end of your year of study when they receive confirmation of the actual income that your dependants received. If SAAS reduce the allowance as a result, you will have to repay the amount you received over your entitlement. The allowance will be paid with your bursary.

→ **£2,303** Single Parent Allowance.

→ Up to **£2,466** for registered childcare costs.

This grant is available to students who have children and have expenses for registered childcare. You can receive up to £2,466 a year, depending on the cost of childcare. 'Registered' childcare includes childminders, after-school clubs, providers of day-care and those who are registered with the Care Inspectorate. If you are getting your full childcare costs paid from other sources (for example, your institution) you should not apply for this grant. You should apply to SAAS first for help with your childcare costs before you ask for help from any other source. When you fill in your application form you should tell SAAS if you think you may be entitled to this support. They will ask you for details about your childcare provider and confirmation of the amounts you will pay.

→ Disabled Students Allowance

The Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) is a non-income-assessed allowance to cover extra costs or expenses you might have while studying which arise because of your disability. You can apply to SAAS for this allowance which is made up of three parts:

- Up to **£1,725** a year for any small items of equipment or consumables.
- Up to **£20,520** a year for non-medical personal help.
- Up to **£5,160** for major items of specialist equipment (this is a total amount for the course, not for each year of the course).

➔ Maternity

If a student wishes to withdraw from their course temporarily because of pregnancy and/or childbirth, the student will continue to receive their bursary support during the absence. In order to do so, the student must discuss their circumstances with the course leader at the university and agree start and end dates for the period of absence.

The earliest date for maternity leave to begin would normally be 11 weeks before the expected date of confinement. It is for students and universities to agree when the student will return, but this continued support will only be available for a maximum of 45 weeks.

Universities will advise SAAS of the agreed leave, start and return dates. When a student begins their period of approved absence, they will then continue to receive the support that they would have received if they had continued on the course. However, childcare allowance will normally cease once the authorised absence formally starts, unless the student is contractually committed beyond that date.

DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Nursing and Midwifery Discretionary Fund enables nursing and midwifery students who are in financial difficulties to either access or continue in Higher Education. Payments for the fund will be made in addition to any other form of student support.

You should contact the finance or student services department of your university for further information.

APPLYING FOR THE BURSARY AND ALLOWANCES

You can apply for student funding at www.saas.gov.uk by completing an online application form.

Once they have processed your application, an award notice will go on to your SAAS account. All instalments for each year will be paid into your account. You must supply valid bank account details at the time of applying, and advise SAAS of any changes to these details.

Scottish students choosing to study nursing and midwifery in other UK countries since 2017/18 should apply to SAAS for the standard undergraduate package.

EXPENSES FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENT

Clinical placement is the part of the course that consists of supervised practice in clinical areas. You can claim expenses for some extra travel and reasonable accommodation costs so you are not out of pocket. Educational or observational visits that are part of the general academic costs of the course should be paid for by your institution.

Students can apply for advanced payments of expenses through their university.

TRAVEL

As there is £5 included within the bursary for daily travel already, you can only claim for placement travel if the cheapest method of public transport exceeds £5 per day, unless claiming for patient visits only.

You are expected to use student offers, season passes and zoned cards wherever possible. If your claim is more than the cheapest fare available, your claim will be restricted to the cheapest fare. If public transport is available but you choose to use your own car, expenses will be restricted to the cost of public transport.

If nearby public transport is unavailable for your shift times, you must seek agreement in advance from your institution to use your car. The use of your car may also be authorised if you are using it to reach nearby public transport or are on a community placement **and** have used your car for patient visits. You will be reimbursed at the current motor mileage rate of 45p per mile. Motor cycle allowance is 24p per mile.

Airfares can be paid where your institution is satisfied they are justified. You should always seek your institution's agreement in advance if you want to have airfares paid.

If you expect your travel costs to exceed £35 you should seek local accommodation wherever possible.

You will not be reimbursed for taxi fares, tips, sleeper berths, carriage of luggage or bicycles, parking costs and any travel not directly related to the practice placement.

ACCOMMODATION

You can claim for reasonable accommodation costs if you have to live away from home or a term time address whilst on placement.

You should seek authorisation from your university before you arrange the accommodation. If you incur costs for staying with friends or family, we will reimburse you up to a maximum of £15 per night. The cost of all meals, food etc. during placement that are not included in accommodation costs (i.e. bed & breakfast) must be met from your personal allowance.

APPLYING FOR CLINICAL PLACEMENT EXPENSES

You should apply for placement expenses as soon as possible after your placement. Should you require an advance payment, please contact your university finance department to apply.

Give your completed expenses form to your institution. They will assess each claim on its merits, deciding the most appropriate method and costs of travel, before passing the approved claim to SAAS who will arrange for payment to your bank account within two weeks of receiving the approved claim.

All claims must be received by SAAS within six months of your placement end date.

GENERAL INFORMATION

PREVIOUS ASSISTANCE FROM PUBLIC FUNDS

You can receive a bursary for pre-registration nursing and midwifery courses under the NMSB scheme even if you have previously received support from public funds for further or higher education. However, if you receive an NMSB scheme bursary and subsequently apply for assistance for further or higher education, you may not be entitled to further support. You should seek advice from SAAS about what support, if any, might be available.

STUDY AFTER QUALIFICATION

The NMSB scheme does not provide support for nurses or midwives who have completed their course and have been entered in the Professional Register to top up their qualification to degree or honours degree level.

STUDYING ABROAD – ERASMUS-SOCRATES IN NURSING STUDIES

Some students may be allowed by their institution to undertake part (one module) of their course abroad. Where this period abroad is an integral part of the course, contributing to qualification as a nurse or midwife, and is included in the normal three year bursary period (four years for honours degree students), the bursary will continue to be paid for the period abroad. No additional funding will be available and no travel costs will be paid.

OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Once you are offered a place on your course, you can apply to SAAS for funding. You will be able to apply online in the spring for courses starting in Autumn 2020. The quickest and easiest way to apply is to use the SAAS online application service. **You must apply for the bursary each year.**

For enquiries about your bursary contact:

Student Awards Agency Scotland
Saughton House
Broomhouse Drive
EDINBURGH
EH11 3UT
tel: 0300 555 0505
e-mail: www.saas.gov.uk/contact.htm

Students are recruited and processed by the UCAS application system.

UCAS
PO Box 21
Cheltenham
GL52 3CZ
tel: 0871 4680468
e-mail: enquiries@ucas.co.uk



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