



Full-time BSc Social Work 2016/17 Advice, Information & Funding Service (AIFS)

This information sheet supplements the information you should also obtain from the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA), which is the body administering Social Work bursaries on behalf of the Department of Health: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

In 2013/14 there were major changes to the Social Work Bursary scheme and unfortunately the bursary is no longer available for the first year of the undergraduate degree. There is also now a cap on the number of bursaries available and the University will decide which undergraduate students will receive the bursary in years two and three.

Students who have received a bursary in a previous academic year and have not interrupted their studies will continue to be funded under the previous arrangements.

First year students

If you are starting your first year of the undergraduate course you will not be eligible to apply for a Social Work Bursary. Instead, you may be eligible to receive funding for your first year through Student Finance England (SFE). If you wish to apply for a Social Work Bursary for your second year of the course you will need to complete the appropriate bursary application form at www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx nearer to the start of the relevant academic year. You should learn whether you will be receiving a bursary during the summer vacation prior to the start of your second academic year.

When you reach year two, if your application for the bursary is unsuccessful you should continue to apply for funding through Student Finance England.

If your application for the bursary in years two and three is successful then you will be able to receive the following two complementary sources of funding. You can receive them both if you meet the eligibility criteria.

1. Statutory Student Support from Student Finance England

For full details of the statutory student support funding available to most UK 'Home' students please refer to our Information Sheet, 'Full Time Undergraduate Students 2016/17'. This is available at www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice

New students starting their course in the 2016/17 academic year must apply to Student Finance England for their funding (www.gov.uk/studentfinance). You should apply for your funding as soon as possible. You do not have to wait for an offer of a place on the course in order to submit your application.

The funding package consists of both means-tested and non-means-tested support including a Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan. There are also additional allowances for students with

dependants or a disability. These include the Parents Learning Allowance, Adult Dependants Grant, Childcare Grant and Disabled Students Allowance. The Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan are repayable. All the other allowances listed are non-repayable.

2. The Social Work Bursary

The Social Work Bursary was introduced as an incentive to train in Social Work and is administered by the NHS Business Services Authority on behalf of the Department of Health. The bursary package is non-income-assessed which means that earnings, savings and other sources of income are not taken into consideration. It is not repayable. You must meet both residency and other eligibility criteria to be eligible for a bursary. You should check that you meet the criteria by referring to the NHSBSA website: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

The bursary for continuing undergraduate students at London Metropolitan University consists of a grant of up to £5,262.50 for a 52 week period (which includes a notional contribution of £862.50 towards your placement travel expenses). When it comes to paying your tuition fees you can use all or part of this bursary towards your fees or you can apply for the Tuition Fee Loan from Student Finance England.

Closing date for applications is 1st November 2016.

N.B. Please note that the NHSBSA does not have responsibility for the funding of students from Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland. Contact details for the social care organisations for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland can be obtained from the NHSBSA website.

The bursary is paid in three instalments, usually in September/October, January and April. All payments will be made by BACS (Banks Automated Clearing System).

Repeat Study

The Social Work Bursary is intended as a one-time incentive for each study year of the established course structure and is therefore not available to students who undertake a period of study they have already attempted. However, it may be possible to get additional Student Support from Student Finance England – depending on your circumstances.

If you stop your studies at any time, you will be entitled to a payment only for the days you were in attendance on the course.

Students who are not eligible for the Social Work Bursary and started their course before 2016 will continue to be funded under the pre-2016 system (Maintenance Loan and grants if eligible)

Benefits

The Social Work Bursary and statutory student funding may affect your entitlement to other benefits and allowances. If you are eligible for the bursary and student funding, you must inform any organisations from which you are receiving benefits or allowances.

Additional information

Social Work students need to be aware that the pressure of work on the course, together with the pattern of work placements, means that it may be difficult to undertake paid work in addition to their studies.

The University expects students to show at enrolment how their fees will be paid. If tuition fees are being paid by taking out the Tuition Fee Loan then proof of this should be shown at enrolment. If students intend to pay all or part of their fees in some other way they need to make

an arrangement with the University at enrolment. For information on how to make a fee payment see www.londonmet.ac.uk/studying/funding-your-studies/paying-your-tuition-fees

Useful Contacts

NHS Business Services Authority
Social Work Bursaries
PO Box 141
Hesketh House
200-220 Broadway
Fleetwood FY7 9AS

Tel: 0300 330 1342
Email: nhsbsa.swbteam@nhs.net
Web: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students.aspx

This is a brief guide and as such cannot cover all eventualities. For this reason we recommend that you contact an adviser in the Advice, Information and Funding Service if you have any specific queries.

How to contact the Advice, Information & Funding Service

Telephone Student Services reception and ask to speak to a student adviser:

Aldgate campus – 020 7320 2094; Holloway campus – 020 7133 2094

Email: advice.studentservices@londonmet.ac.uk

Website: www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice

Additional information on student support and budgeting can be found at www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice where you can download a budget planner to help you with financial planning.

Disclaimer: The content of this information sheet has been compiled using information from external sources, as well as University data. The content has been carefully checked and is given in good faith. However, the University cannot accept responsibility for the consequences of any inaccuracy.

Note: Attendance at classes and completion of all assessments is a vital part of being a student. The University does monitor student attendance and, where there are no good reasons for a student not being in classes or submitting work, then students will not be able to continue on their course. This is likely to have an effect on current and future course funding.

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