Student Money and Accommodation Advice

NHS Learning Support Fund – Allied Health Professions (AHP)

# What is the NHS Learning Support Fund?

NHS Learning Support Fund was introduced in September 2020 and is available for pre-registration Allied Health Professions courses. It is a non-taxable, non-means-tested and non-repayable grant package.

**The NHS LSF offers:**

* Training Grant – £5,000 per year
* Parental Support – £2,000 per year for student with a dependent child/children
* Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses – reimbursement of excess costs incurred on practice placement
* Exceptional Support Fund – up to £3,000 per year for students experiencing financial hardship

For further information please see: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf)

Students on part-time courses will receive a pro rata payment.

# Eligible Courses

BSc Dietetics, BSc Dietetics and Nutrition, MSc Dietetics and Nutrition and MSc Physiotherapy.

**NHS LSF Funding Entitlement**

To receive the NHS LSF Support Package you need to be eligible for tuition fees and maintenance support from the Student Loans Company, either through Student Finance England (SFE) or the relevant funding bodies for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland, by fulfilling the requirements set by the Education (Student Support) Regulations 2011 and its amendments. The qualifying criteria can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies>. Both the undergraduate and postgraduate Allied Health Professions courses attract the undergraduate support package.

European tuition fee only students are not eligible for NHS LSF support.

**Student Finance England (SFE) Funding Package**

Statutory undergraduate funding from the government provides money for tuition fees, living costs and supplementary funding for students with children and dependents. Students can access:

* Non-means-tested Tuition Fee Loan of £9,250
* Means-tested Maintenance Loan of up to \*£13,022 (2023/24 rate) which may attract the long course loan if terms include placements
* Supplementary Funding: Childcare Grant, Adult Dependants’ Grant, Parents’ Learning Allowance

You can find detailed information as follows about government funding: [www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance/new-fulltime-students)

Usually those who already hold an undergraduate degree are not eligible for further undergraduate funding, however, in the case of Allied Health Profession subjects, the first degree is disregarded and an applicant is eligible for second degree funding.

SFE allows one extra year of tuition fee funding if a student is required to repeat a year due to academic non progression. NHS LSF will not fund any repeated academic years except when the reason for the repeat is health related and evidenced by a medical or mental health professional.

**Income-assessed welfare benefits**

Most full-time students are not eligible for Universal Credit except the following who may still continue to receive this benefit:

* Responsible for a child – one or both of couple may be students
* Live with your partner and they’re eligible for Universal Credit
* Reached [qualifying age for Pension Credit](https://www.gov.uk/state-pension-age) and live with a partner who is under that age
* Disabled, assessed as having limited capability for work before starting course and are getting: Personal Independence Payment (PIP), Disability Living Allowance (DLA), Attendance Allowance, Armed Forces Independence Payment

When reassessing Universal Credit as a result of SFE income, DWP should disregard: Adult Dependants’ Grant, Parents’ Learning Allowance, Childcare Grant and the Special Support Element of Maintenance Loan. The following components of the NHS LSF Funding package should be disregarded in Universal Credit calculations: £5,000 Grant; £2,000 Parental Support.

**How to apply**

SFE – You should apply for SFE funding as a first step and before the end of May to ensure your funding is in place for September. The application process is online: [www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-online-for-student-finance)

NHS LSF – To apply you will need to register for an NHS LSF account: <https://services.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhslsf/registration/contact>. You will be required to upload evidence of your SFE funding entitlement when you apply and to make an application within six months of the start of the academic year.

As a continuing student, you need to reapply for your funding each academic year.

# September Starters

NHS LSF payments of the training grant and parental support are paid directly in three instalments that alternate with the SFE Maintenance Loan. To be paid NHS LSF, students must be in attendance by 1 November.

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| **Term** | **Loan/grant payment times for September starters** |
| 1 | SFE – September  NHS – Late November |
| 2 | SFE – January  NHS – Late March |
| 3 | SFE – April  NHS – Late July |

# Payment extensions

If you cannot complete your course in the time normally required, NHS funding payments may be extended for up to 12 months to allow you to complete your training at the discretion of NHSBSA, providing you continue to meet the general NHS funding eligibility criteria.

**How to contact us**

Tel: 020 7320 2848

Book an appointment: [Student Services Appointment Booking Form 22/23 (office.com)](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=nO4cPfCLdUO1uVwDFdEYfkqmejgbYWBEugEzEie1FjtUNkJCU0kyT09NNVFSTjdEMjI5Q1hHR1VBTSQlQCN0PWcu)

Email : [studentservices@londonmet.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@londonmet.ac.uk)

Website: [www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice)

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