Student Money and Accommodation Advice

**Full-time BSc Social Work**

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 and Social Care: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students)

You can access ‘Your guide to the social work bursary 24/25’

## 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). Please refer to our information sheet on Undergraduate funding, [www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice](http://www.londonmet.ac.uk/advice) and information on [www.gov.uk/student-finance](http://www.gov.uk/student-finance)

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 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. There is finite funding, the social work bursary is capped for eligible undergraduate students, for 24/25 the national figure is 2,500. You must not assume that an award has been granted until you receive confirmation from NHSBSA. Students are short listed by the university social work department. It is not possible to appeal to NHSBSA if you have not been selected by the university as they do not make the decision.

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 . This is

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

New students starting their course in the 2024/25 academic year must apply to Student Finance England for their funding ([www.gov.uk/studentfinance](http://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 a Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan. There are also additional allowances for students with dependents or a disability. These include the Parents’ Learning Allowance, Adult Dependants’ Grant, Childcare Grant and Disabled Students’ Allowance. The Tuition Fee Loan and Maintenance Loan are repayable. All the other allowances listed are non-repayable.

2. The Social Work Bursary – this 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 and Social Care.

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/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students) and there is information in ‘Your guide to the social work bursary 24/25’

To make an application you need to create an account on the Myfunding portal. If you are applying for the first time you need to submit evidence to confirm your identity and residence. You will be asked to submit your SFE student entitlement letter.

You can also inform NHSBSA about any changes via your account. It is important to report changes or it could lead to an overpayment, which NHSBSA will require you pay back.

All student must re-apply for your bursary each academic year but you would not be asked to supply your residency and identity evidence again.

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 fixed contribution of £862.50 towards your placement travel expenses). You can still get support with your travel costs, even if your placement provider is contributing towards your costs.

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.

Non-Social work bursary students may be eligible to receive a Placement Travel Expense. You should still make an application even if you are not nominated as you may still be eligible for the Placement Travel Allowance.

**Closing date for applications is 31 October 2024**. 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). The PTA is paid at a lump sum with your first payment. You can view your schedule of bursary payments on your Myfunding account.

## Repeat study

The Social Work Bursary is intended as a one-time incentive for second and third study years 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.

## Maternity leave

You may continue to receive bursary payments for up to a maximum of 12 months from the agreed date of the start of the maternity leave period or from the day after the date of birth. The start date of the maternity leave must be agreed with the University prior to commencement of the leave. Those who resume training after a period of maternity leave will retain their capped place for the duration of the course. In addition, students who have taken a period of maternity leave may receive an extension of funding for up to a maximum of 12 months in order to complete the course (this may be extended in exceptional circumstances if you also have to

repeat part of the course). You need to provide medical evidence of the pregnancy prior to going on maternity leave and then the university must inform NHSBSA.

## 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 you to show at enrolment how your 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 you intend to pay all or part of your fees in some other way you need to make an arrangement with the University at enrolment. For information on how to make a fee payment see www.londonmet.ac.uk/applying/funding-your-studies/ways-to-pay/

Please see [Your guide to the Social Work Bursary 2024/25 (nhsbsa.nhs.uk)](https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/2023-06/Your%20guide%20to%20Social%20Work%20Bursaries%202023-24%20%28V7%29%2006.2023_1.pdf)

## Useful Contacts

NHS Business Services Authority

Tel: 0300 330 1342

Email: swbteam@nhsbsa.nhs.uk

You can also contact NHSBSA via their chat function (Ask us?) and their social media channels. Ask us? Enables you to access an online knowledge base 24 hours a day.

Web: [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-undergraduate-students)

Social Work Bursaries

PO Box 141

Hesketh House

200-220 Broadway

Fleetwood FY7 9AS

This is a brief guide and as such cannot cover all eventualities. For this reason we recommend that you contact an adviser in the Student Money and Accommodation Advice team if you have any specific queries.

Contact Student Services to book a telephone or face-to-face appointment by emailing studentservices@londonmet.ac.uk

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

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: January 2025