

Funding for postgraduate pre-registration courses starting in 2018/19

New legislation recently laid out by the Government intends that new postgraduate pre-registration nursing, midwifery and allied health profession students will be **expected** to have access to the standard student loans package provide by the Student Loans Company. The changes only apply to courses in England.

Courses affected by the changes:

Nursing with registration (graduate entry) PG Dip
Physiotherapy (Pre-Registration) MSc
Dietetics MSc/PG Dip

What funding is available?

- From 1 August 2018 onwards, new nursing, midwifery and most allied health students will no longer receive NHS bursaries, but will have access to the same package of undergraduate funding available through the Student Loans Company (SLC). Applications are administered by Student Finance England (SFE).
- Students will have access to:
 - A non-means tested **tuition fee loan up to the amount of £9,250**
 - A means tested **maintenance loan for living costs, up to £11,354**

Additional funding from SFE:

- Full-time students with children or dependent adults can also apply for extra assistance in the form of grant that doesn't have to be paid back:
 - Childcare Grant:** up to £164.70 a week for 1 child, up to £282.36 a week for 2 or more children.
 - Parents' Learning Allowance:** between £50 and £1,669 a year, depending on income.
 - Adult Dependants' Grant:** up to £2,925 a year.
- If you have a disability, long-term health condition, mental health condition or specific learning difficulty (such as dyslexia) you can apply for **Disabled Students' Allowance**.

Extra funding from the NHS Business Service Authority:

- Students with dependants, in severe hardship or having excess travel and dual accommodation expenses due to attending practice placements will be able to claim supplementary non repayable funding from the NHS Business Service Authority.
- This **Learning Support Fund** includes:
 - Child Dependants Allowance:** £1,000 per year for students with eligible child dependants.
 - Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses:** support for excess expenses due to placements.
 - Exceptional Support Fund:** up to £3,000 per year for students experiencing financial hardship.



Frequently Asked Questions

Application Process

When and how do I apply for funding?

Applications for funding are now opened, and King's College London is now registering eligible courses with Student Finance.

You will be able to submit an application from April.

To apply, please visit the Gov.uk website on <https://www.gov.uk/apply-for-student-finance>

Tuition Fees

The tuition fees for the course I am interested in are higher than the £9,250 tuition fee loan, how do I cover the difference?

There is currently ongoing discussion about whether there will be further funding arrangements in the form of grants to supplement the gap between the tuition fee loan and the actual costs of the course.

At this stage however it is still difficult to advise on whether students will be required to cover the gap. Further updates will be provided in due course.

Previous Study

I already have a degree – am I still eligible for funding?

Students planning to undertake a nursing, midwifery or allied health profession subject course as a second degree for the first time will also be eligible for the same package of funding if they are not already registered.

However, limitations apply to students who are already registered in nursing, midwifery, or an allied health profession, and they will not be eligible for support for a second full-time postgraduate preregistration course leading to registration in the same profession.



Continuing Students

I am a continuing student – what funding will I get?

As a continuing student you will normally already be in receipt of funding through the NHS Bursary scheme. This would apply if you:

- are studying on a NHS-commissioned pre registration Nursing, Midwifery or Allied Health Professional course;
- commenced your studies before 1 August 2017; and
- are reapplying for a subsequent academic year.

If you have not received NHS Bursary funding in a previous academic year or years you should refer to the NHSBSA website for more guidance, as the bursary funding arrangements may not apply to you.

I initially applied for the course starting in 2017/18, but deferred my entry to August 2018 – what funding is available to me?

If you have deferred your entry to 2018, you will be funded under the new rules, so you will need to apply for tuition and maintenance loans rather than getting the NHS Bursary.

If you have started your course in 2017/18 and then had to suspend your studies, for example for maternity leave, you will not be transferred on to the new rules but will continue under the old system, with an NHS bursary rather than SFE loans.

Repayment

Under the new system, what happens when I graduate?

When you graduate and earn above the repayment threshold (currently set at £25,000) you start repaying the loan via instalments deducted from your wages by your employer.

Any repayment will stop if your income drops below the threshold.

You will repay 9% of any amount of income above the threshold.

Any unpaid loan amount is written off after 30 years.

How to work out your monthly repayment amount:

1. Take away £25,000 from your annual salary before tax, ie £30,000 – £25,000 = £5,000
2. Work out 9% of the remainder = £450 p.a.
3. Divide that figure by 12 = £37.50 monthly
4. Round down to the nearest pound = £37 monthly repayment.

