

Advanced Life-Saving Course (ALS) Funding Policy

The Wales Foundation School requires F1 Foundation Doctors (within a recognised 2-year Foundation Training Programme) to complete the ALS Course as part of their F1 sign off requirements.

This document provides guidance to Foundation Doctors, Postgraduate Centres and Resuscitation Centres in relation to sitting and payment for the ALS Course.

For any further questions, please contact the Wales Foundation School via email on HEIW.FoundationSchool@wales.nhs.uk.

When do Foundation Doctors attend the ALS Course?

The ALS course sittings are organised by the local Health Boards in liaison with their Resuscitation teams. Where possible, this is incorporated into the induction & shadowing period prior to the start of the Foundation Programme, but if not, this should be organised as soon as possible into the F1 year.

The ALS course should be completed prior to the F1 ARCPs in June each year in order to avoid impacting progression onto F2.

If a Foundation Doctor has not been provided with an ALS course date, then they should speak to their local Foundation Administrator (within their Postgraduate Centre) in the first instance.

The Foundation School will not provide funding for any ALS courses that are undertaken prior to the start of the induction & shadowing period.

How much funding is a Foundation Doctor entitled to for the ALS Course?

Each Foundation Doctor (within a recognised 2-year Foundation Programme) is eligible for funding of up to £400 to attend one sitting of the ALS course.

Where the ALS course is arranged through the local Postgraduate Centre, this funding will cover the cost of the course. However, if you attend a course booked outside of this process the cost may vary; if the cost is less than £400, the course fee will be reimbursed, and if the cost is more than £400, the trainee will be liable for any additional amount due.

Funding is only available for the first sitting of the ALS course.

In addition, there is no funding available for any travel or subsistence costs associated with sitting the ALS course. These expenses would fall within the All-Wales Study Leave policy (and Foundation School addendum).

What leave is a Foundation Doctor entitled to for the ALS Course?

Leave to attend the ALS course is provided for as part of the All-Wales Study Leave policy and should be booked in accordance with that policy. If the full allocated leave is not

required to sit the ALS course, the additional leave days cannot be used for alternative qualifying study leave activities.

If you attend the ALS course on a non-working day, there is provision for claiming time in lieu within the All-Wales Study Leave policy.

What if a Foundation Doctor is unable to attend their scheduled ALS course?

If a Foundation Doctor is unable to attend a booked ALS course, they should contact their local Postgraduate Centre and Resuscitation team/ALS course provider as soon as possible.

Please note that if insufficient notice is given, the course provider is able to charge the course fee for that Foundation Doctor, despite their non-attendance. In these cases, this would be considered a “sitting” and the Foundation Doctor would need to self fund any further sittings of the ALS course.

If a Foundation Doctor is requested not to attend the ALS course by their department, the department should confirm that they have the budget to fund a further sitting of the course on behalf of the Foundation Doctor.

If a Foundation Doctor is unable to attend any locally scheduled ALS courses, other courses can be viewed and booked via <https://www.resus.org.uk/training-courses/adult-life-support>.

What if a Foundation Doctor does not complete the ALS course?

If an ALS course sitting is not passed, another sitting of the ALS course should be booked and will need to be funded by the individual.

As mentioned above, passing the ALS course is a requirement of F1 sign off in Wales.

How to claim the ALS course fees?

Most Resuscitation Centres recharge the first sitting of the ALS course directly to Health Education Improvement Wales (HEIW), without any input required from the Foundation Doctors.

Where a Foundation Doctor is booked to attend a second sitting, the Resuscitation Centre will reach out to the Foundation Doctor to pay for the sitting in order to secure their place.

If a Foundation Doctor has paid for an ALS course upfront (and has not been charged for an ALS sitting prior), they will need to complete an expenses claim form and provide a receipt as proof of payment. Please contact the Foundation School on HEIW.FoundationSchool@wales.nhs.uk to obtain a copy of the expenses claim form, and ensure that the claim is provided within 3 months of the expense incurring.

How to record completion of the ALS Course within the ePortfolio?

After successful completion of the ALS course, the Foundation Doctor is provided with an ALS certificate, which can be uploaded to their ePortfolio.

Doctors appointed to F1/F2 Locum Appointment for Service (LAS) posts

The Wales Foundation School does not provide funding for doctors outside of a recognised 2-year Foundation Programme, therefore doctors appointed to Foundation LAS posts are not eligible for this funding.

Doctors appointed to F1/F2 Locum Appointment for Training (LAT) posts

The Wales Foundation School does not provide funding for doctors outside of a recognised 2-year Foundation Programme, therefore doctors appointed to Foundation LAT posts are not eligible for this funding. This includes those appointed to F2 Standalone Programmes.