



**GIG**  
CYMRU  
**NHS**  
WALES

Addysg a Gwella Iechyd  
Cymru (AaGIC)  
Health Education and  
Improvement Wales (HEIW)

## WELSH BURSARY FOR HEALTHCARE GRADUATES FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS. VERSION 1. APRIL 2021

### Part One: General questions regarding the bursary scheme.

**1. Which courses are eligible for the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?**

Please see **Appendix 1** for list.

**2. Do I have to live and study in Wales to access the NHS Wales Bursary scheme?**

You do not have to be living in Wales but you do need to study in Wales for the entirety of the course. You cannot access the bursary scheme regardless of your nationality or where you live if you do not commit to study in Wales and agree to the terms and conditions of the bursary scheme. EU students starting courses on or after 1 August 2021 must have settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU Settlement Scheme to get funding under the NHS Bursary Scheme. Students who have already started or who start courses before 1 August 2021 will continue to be eligible for support and home fee status for the duration of their course.

**3. How do I apply for the bursary?**

You can apply for your NHS bursary using the link below as soon as you have had a firm offer from your chosen University of a place and within ten weeks of commencing the course. Your application will not be accepted if it is beyond the ten week deadline

[Student Awards Services - NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership](#)

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training/undergraduate-education-for-health-professionals/nhs-bursary/>

You will also be required to register with the Welsh Health Education System which is a student register for all students who commit to working in Wales on completion of their course. If you do not register you will not be able to apply for the bursary scheme.

**4. Does the bursary scheme allow me to transfer to another course in the same University?**

This will have to be agreed with the university and the commissioners in advance. If the new course is funded by NHS Wales (ie is a course specified in **Appendix 1**) your funding may continue. If the course is not one funded by NHS Wales or all of the course places commissioned by Welsh Government are full, you will be classified as discontinuing your course and shall be liable to repay an element of the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme. Please

refer to clause 7 of the Bursary Terms and Conditions

**5. Does the bursary scheme allow me to transfer to another University during my course?**

This will have to be agreed by both universities and the commissioner in advance. If the course is funded by the NHS (**Appendix 1**) your funding may continue. If the course is not one funded by the NHS you will be classified as discontinuing your course. You need to ensure that you have informed the University of your decision to transfer. If the new course is not one funded by the NHS the bursary payments will then cease. Please be aware it is your responsibility to inform student awards if you continue to receive bursary payments after you have withdrawn. If you do not, you may be required to repay any funding that you receive in error after your withdrawal date from the programme

**6. Can I transfer to another course in Wales?**

This will have to be agreed by both universities and the commissioner in advance. If the course is funded by the NHS (**Appendix 1**) your funding may continue. If the course is not one funded by the NHS you will be classified as discontinuing your course. You need to ensure that you have informed the University of your decision to transfer. If the new course is not one funded by the NHS the bursary payments will then cease. Please inform student awards if you continue to receive bursary payments after you have withdrawn. You will be required to repay any funding that you receive in error after your withdrawal date from the programme.

**7. Can I transfer to another course outside of Wales?**

No. You will be classified as discontinuing your course. You need to ensure that you have informed the University of your decision to transfer. Please inform student awards if you continue to receive bursary payments after you have withdrawn. You will be required to repay any funding that you receive in error after your withdrawal date from the programme.

**8. If I have to take a break from my studies, will I be funded when I return?**

Your bursary will cease for the time you are away from your studies but will recommence on your return.

**9. If I receive the NHS Wales Bursary and I am asked to leave the course (eg, due to academic failure, placement failure, fitness to practice or ill health) or decide to leave the course, will I have to repay funding from the NHS Wales Bursary Scheme?**

No, you will not be liable to make any repayment. However please be aware by not completing your course you will not be eligible to receive registration to work as a healthcare professional and if you are a final year student and complete your course elsewhere at a later date, you will be liable to return the fees that you have received.

**10. Can I have a bursary for more than one course?**

You are eligible to apply to the bursary scheme for the identified courses specified in **Appendix 1** of the Bursary Terms and Conditions. Students enrolled on undergraduate BSc pre-registration courses are eligible for a maximum of three years of funding unless they have mitigating circumstances confirmed by their university. If you change your course part way through your training and need more than three years to complete your training, then you will be required to self-fund the additional training required. If you take up a second course on

completion of the first, the employment period of the first course will be waived if you undertake a second NHS Wales funded training course e.g. Health Visiting straight away. However, at the point of completing the second course you will be required to work in Wales for a 2yr period.

## **Part two: General questions following graduation.**

### **1. If I leave employment in NHS Wales before 2 years what will I need to repay?**

Your repayment is set out in **Appendix 2** and reflects the time you have worked in NHS Wales. Please see clause 10 of the Bursary Terms and Conditions.

### **2. If I change employment in Wales during the first 2 years does this have any implications?**

Providing it is Suitable Employment which must be based in Wales in the profession for which you have been trained and for an average (which may include more than one Suitable Employment role) of 22.5 hours per week then there will be no implications. If not, you will be required to repay the bursary.

### **3. If I am on maternity leave during the first 2 years following graduation are there any implications?**

If you are in suitable employment as identified above and are on maternity leave this will not effect your agreement. If you have yet to commence employment your requirement to work in Wales it is likely that it will be deferred for 1 year. You will need to make a formal request for a Review using the HEIW request for a Review form.

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training/undergraduate-education-for-health-professionals/nhs-bursary/>

### **4. If I suffer ill health and am unable to work during the first 2 years following graduation what are the implications for me?**

You will need to request a review of your case using the HEIW request for a Review form which can be downloaded from the HEIW webpage.

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training/undergraduate-education-for-health-professionals/nhs-bursary/>

### **5. How will I know that I have met my contractual obligations of the bursary scheme?**

A member of the HEIW bursary scheme will write to you inform you that you have met the contractual requirement to work in Wales.

### **6. What qualifies as employment in Wales for 2yrs post -graduation?**

Suitable Employment must be based in Wales in the profession for which you have been trained and for an average (which may include more than one Suitable Employment role) of 22.5 hours per week, unless there are exceptional circumstances which may be agreed on an individual basis with HEIW. Please see clause 11 of the Bursary Terms and Conditions.

## **Part three: General questions if you think you cannot meet the bursary terms and conditions**

### **1. I cannot fulfil the employment contractual obligation of the terms and conditions of the bursary scheme so what do I do next?**

If you think that you cannot meet the employment contractual obligation of the bursary, you will be required to request a Review of your circumstances following graduation. HEIW will aim to reach a decision after consideration of your personal circumstances and information regarding recent and future NHS workforce opportunities. Several outcomes are possible following the Review. You may be released from your contractual obligations; you may receive an extension and support to find employment; or you may be required to repay the costs of tuition fees of the bursary scheme. If this is the case, you will not be required to repay travel, additional accommodation, childcare costs, disabled students allowance, dependents allowance, and parental learning allowance. See **Appendix 2** and clause 12 of the Bursary Terms and Conditions for further detail. There are some circumstances when HEIW will release you from the commitment if you can demonstrate that you meet one of the following categories

- Insufficient suitable jobs available in Wales over a specified time period
- Unsuccessful in securing a post
- Ill Health meaning that you can no longer work in the profession for which you have trained.
- Caring responsibilities that would restrict your ability to work in Wales.

If you think that you meet any of these criteria, you must complete a Request for a Review which forms part of the Appeal process

### **2. How do I ask for a Review?**

In all cases you will be required to request a Review of your circumstances following graduation. You can request a Review by accessing a HEIW bursary Request for a Review Form which can be accessed from

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training/undergraduate-education-for-health-professionals/nhs-bursary/>

HEIW commits to completing this Review within 28 days of receipt of sufficient information to complete the Review. You will be informed in writing of the outcome of the Review.

### **3. What if I do not agree with the outcome of the Review?**

If you do not agree, you can request an Appeal of the Review decision. Information on the Appeal policy, guidance on how to Appeal and the Request for an Appeal form can all be accessed

<https://heiw.nhs.wales/education-and-training/undergraduate-education-for-health-professionals/nhs-bursary/>

HEIW operates an Appeal process in line with other appeal processes within HEIW.

### **4. What is the process to repay an element of the bursary?**

If you wish to repay all or part of your bursary tie-in you can do so by contacting the HEIW bursary team on [HEIW.bursary@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:HEIW.bursary@wales.nhs.uk) On all other issues regarding finance, HEIW will write to you informing you of the amount that you owe or confirm details of your obligations