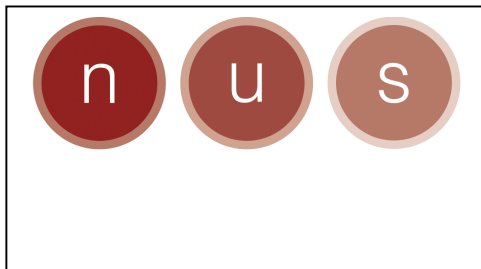


**NHS BURSARY SCHEME (ENGLAND)
STUDENT BULLETIN**

**Bulletin Number 02/2007
Date: 16 January 2007**



**NHS BURSARY SCHEME
STUDENT BULLETIN (NO. 02/2007, 16 JANUARY 2006)**

**CHANGES TO THE NHS BURSARY SCHEME IN ENGLAND FOR
STUDENTS WHO BEGIN THEIR TRAINING FROM 1ST SEPTEMBER 2007**

The introduction of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations has meant that the rules of the NHS Bursary Scheme have had to be reviewed and changed to ensure that entitlements to NHS funded support do not discriminate on the basis of age.

The existing NHS bursary allowances that are calculated or awarded on the basis of age will be removed. This means that from 1st September 2007, **new** students entering NHS funded health professional courses at English universities will have their NHS bursary and other allowances calculated using new rules. There will be no change to existing students entitlements, this will only affect new students from the 1st September 2007.

The Department of Health has reviewed and agreed all of the rule changes with a wide range of stakeholders including UNISON, the Royal College of Nursing, the Royal College of Midwives, the British Medical Association, the Allied Health Professionals Federation, the National Union of Students, Strategic Health Authorities and Universities. The objective has been to ensure that the changes made will have a minimal impact on students by redistributing funds within the NHS Bursary.

Who will be affected by these changes?

The changes to the NHS bursary will affect **new** students who start their training on or after 1 September 2007.

Existing and other NHS funded healthcare professional students who begin training before the 1st September 2007 are **not affected** by the rules changes, provided they are in attendance on a NHS funded course on the 31st of August 2007. They will continue to receive the NHS bursary with the current allowances until they complete or drop out of their current training course.

What are the changes to the NHS Bursary Scheme?

The main changes are:-

- An increase in the basic allowance of £244
- The introduction of a new Parents' Learning Allowance (by extending the single parent learning allowance to all parents).
- The removal of the age related element of the dependants' allowance.
- A change in the definition of independent status.
- An increase in the 'independent' threshold.

A summary of the changes is outlined in this bulletin.

The NHS Student Grants Unit is currently revising and updating information on the changes to the NHS Bursary Scheme and more detailed information will be available in March 2007 within "Financial Help for Health Care Students" and a bursary calculator that should be available on line. Please do not contact the Student Grants Unit until this information is on their web site at: www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk

For further advice and information students may wish to contact:

UNISON web site www.unison.org.uk/healthcare
Gail Adams Head of Nursing UNISON email gail.adams@unison.co.uk
Kevin Russell Assistant National Officer UNISON email
r.russell@unison.co.uk

National Union of Students

Students go to www.nusonline.co.uk
Union Student Officers go to www.officeronline.co.uk

BMA

<http://www.bma.org.uk/students>

Royal College of Nursing

www.rcn.org.uk

Royal College of Midwives

<http://www.rcm.org.uk/>

Allied Health Professionals Federation

www.baot.co.uk

Footnote:

Students and prospective students should not rely on the current NHS bursary rules and allowances when planning for subsequent academic years these may be subject to review in the future and as a result may be liable to change. Further information about the NHS bursary will be posted on the Student Grant Unit website (www.nhsstudentgrants.co.uk) as and when it is made available. Students are advised to check the website on a regular basis. The Department of Health and NHS Student Grants Unit will accept no responsibility for loss of any type however suffered by students who have relied on current rules and allowances in altering their circumstances (including but not limited to financial circumstances) whether for the current academic year, academic year to begin or indeed for subsequent academic years.

Summary of Changes at 2006/07 NHS Bursary rates

	Increase in the basic NHS bursary
Who is eligible?	All students beginning training from the 1 st September 2007
How much?	<p>Degree students (means-tested awards for 30 weeks):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Living in the parental home £2,180 ▪ Living away from the parental home and studying in London £3,152 ▪ Living away from the parental home and studying outside London £2,611 <p>Diploma students (non-means tested awards for 45 weeks)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Studying outside London £6,227 ▪ Studying in London and not living in the parental home £7,274 ▪ Studying in London and living in the parental home £6,227
How is it paid?	In monthly instalments directly into the students' bank account.
What does this mean?	An extra £244 has been added to each of the awards under the basic NHS bursary, above.

	Introduction of a Parents' Learning Allowance by the extension of the Single Parent Allowance to all students who have dependent children
Who is eligible?	All students beginning training from the 1 st September 2007 with dependent children
How much?	Degree students, up to £1,211 Diploma students, up to £1,026
How is it paid?	As a means-tested addition to the NHS bursary. The allowance is a single payment each year that does not depend on how many dependent children the student has.
Why do this?	This help was previously only available to single parents. We are extending this allowance to all students beginning training from 1 st September 2007 who are parents.

	Change to Dependants' Allowance
Who is eligible?	All students beginning training from 1 st September 2007 with dependants.
How much?	<p>Degree students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spouse, partner or civil partner or first child, up to £2,453 ▪ Other dependants, up to £500 each <p>Diploma students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spouse, partner or civil partner or first child, up to £2,080 ▪ Other dependants, up to £500 each
How is it paid?	As a means-tested addition to the NHS bursary
Why do this?	Dependants' Allowances were previously calculated on the basis of the ages of the students' children. We have removed the age-related element of this allowance.

	Change in the definition of independent students
Who is affected?	All students beginning training from 1 st September 2007.
What has changed?	Being aged over 25 will no longer be one of the conditions to determine if you are independent of your parents
What are the new rules?	You will be classified as being independent of your parents if any one of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You have care of a child or children on the first day of the academic year in which you are applying for a bursary ▪ You have been married or have entered into a civil partnership before the start of the academic year for which you are applying for a bursary ▪ You have no living parents ▪ You have supported yourself for at least 3 years before the start of the first academic year of your course ▪ Your parents cannot be traced or it is not practical or possible to contact them ▪ Your parents live abroad and an assessment would put them in danger (this may apply if you are a refugee) ▪ You are permanently estranged from your parents ▪ You are in the care of a local authority or voluntary organisation, or are under a custodianship order on your 18th birthday or immediately before your course if you are not 18 when it begins
Why do this?	A student's age will no longer be one of the criteria to determine the independent status of a student.

	Increases in the level of income a student's spouse, partner or civil partner can earn before it affects the NHS bursary & other allowances.
Who is affected?	All students beginning training from 1 st September 2007.
What has changed?	The amount of income a student's spouse, partner or civil partner can earn before it affects the level of bursary and other allowances awarded has been increased from £19,409 to £22,561 in line with the parental income allowed.

<p>What are the new rules?</p>	<p>The new rates are:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="699 315 836 383"><u>Residual Income</u></th> <th data-bbox="879 277 1075 311"><u>Contribution</u></th> <th data-bbox="1118 277 1256 344"><u>Residual Income</u></th> <th data-bbox="1283 277 1479 311"><u>Contribution</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 423 820 495">Under £22,561</td> <td data-bbox="954 423 995 456">Nil</td> <td data-bbox="1118 423 1240 456">£55,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 423 1431 456">£3,461</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 501 820 535">£22,561</td> <td data-bbox="954 501 995 535">£45</td> <td data-bbox="1118 501 1240 535">£57,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 501 1431 535">£3,725</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 542 820 575">£25,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 542 995 575">£302</td> <td data-bbox="1118 542 1240 575">£60,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 542 1431 575">£3,988</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 582 820 616">£27,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 582 995 616">£565</td> <td data-bbox="1118 582 1240 616">£62,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 582 1431 616">£4,251</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 622 820 656">£30,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 622 995 656">£828</td> <td data-bbox="1118 622 1240 656">£65,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 622 1431 656">£4,515</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 663 820 696">£32,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 663 995 696">£1,091</td> <td data-bbox="1118 663 1240 696">£67,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 663 1431 696">£4,778</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 703 820 736">£35,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 703 995 736">£1,355</td> <td data-bbox="1118 703 1240 736">£70,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 703 1431 736">£5,041</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 743 820 777">£37,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 743 995 777">£1,618</td> <td data-bbox="1118 743 1240 777">£72,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 743 1431 777">£5,305</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 784 820 817">£40,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 784 995 817">£1,881</td> <td data-bbox="1118 784 1240 817">£75,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 784 1431 817">£5,568</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 824 820 857">£42,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 824 995 857">£2,145</td> <td data-bbox="1118 824 1240 857">£77,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 824 1431 857">£5,831</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 864 820 898">£45,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 864 995 898">£2,408</td> <td data-bbox="1118 864 1240 898">£80,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 864 1431 898">£6,095</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 904 820 938">£47,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 904 995 938">£2,671</td> <td data-bbox="1118 904 1240 938">£82,500</td> <td data-bbox="1331 904 1431 938">£6,358</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 945 820 978">£50,000</td> <td data-bbox="954 945 995 978">£2,935</td> <td data-bbox="1118 945 1240 978">£85,000</td> <td data-bbox="1331 945 1431 978">£6,621</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="715 985 820 1019">£52,500</td> <td data-bbox="954 985 995 1019">£3,198</td> <td data-bbox="1118 985 1240 1019">£92,700+</td> <td data-bbox="1331 985 1431 1019">£7,432</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<u>Residual Income</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	<u>Residual Income</u>	<u>Contribution</u>	Under £22,561	Nil	£55,000	£3,461	£22,561	£45	£57,500	£3,725	£25,000	£302	£60,000	£3,988	£27,500	£565	£62,500	£4,251	£30,000	£828	£65,000	£4,515	£32,500	£1,091	£67,500	£4,778	£35,000	£1,355	£70,000	£5,041	£37,500	£1,618	£72,500	£5,305	£40,000	£1,881	£75,000	£5,568	£42,500	£2,145	£77,500	£5,831	£45,000	£2,408	£80,000	£6,095	£47,500	£2,671	£82,500	£6,358	£50,000	£2,935	£85,000	£6,621	£52,500	£3,198	£92,700+	£7,432
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<p>Why do this?</p>	<p>The income tables for spouses, partners or civil partners have been set at the same level as those used for parents.</p>																																																												

END

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