**HEI Comms Toolkit**

**2021/22 academic year**

**Draft text for student comms**

We are pleased to be able to confirm information on the application windows for the 2021/22 academic year for NHS Learning Support Fund (NHSLSF) students. Please read this information together with the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) Student Services guide fully before you make an application.

You can find more information on the NHSBSA Student Services website [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/LSF](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/LSF) and the latest updates on their social media channels:

* Facebook: /LearningSupportFund
* Twitter: @NHSBSA\_LSF

**What is the NHS Learning Support Fund?**

The NHS Learning Support Fund (NHSLSF) is available to eligible students studying one of the following courses at a university in England as either an undergraduate or postgraduate:

* dietetics
* dental hygiene / dental therapy (level 5 and level 6 courses)
* midwifery
* nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing / social work)
* occupational therapy
* operating department practitioner (level 5 and level 6 courses)
* orthoptics
* orthotics and prosthetics
* paramedicine (including nurse paramedicine)
* physiotherapy (including MPhysio)
* podiatry / chiropody
* radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
* speech and language therapy

NHSLSF is made up of the following elements:

* **Training Grant**: a non-means tested grant of £5,000 each academic
  + **Specialist subject payment**: an additional £1,000 is added to your account automatically if you’re studying one of the following courses:
    - mental health nursing
    - learning disability nursing
    - radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
    - prosthetics and orthotics
    - orthoptics and podiatry
  + **Regional incentive**: further details will be announced in due course.

Both the specialist subject payment and regional incentive are **only available for new students starting their course from September 2020**.

* **Parental Support:** formerly known as Child Dependants Allowance, you can apply for £2,000 each academic year if you have parental responsibility for a child under 15 years old, or under 17 years if they’re registered with special educational needs. This is a set amount and is per student, not per child.
* **Travel and Dual Accommodation Expenses (TDAE):** you can claim reimbursement of any additional travel and temporary accommodation costs incurred as part of attending your practice placements.
* **Exceptional Support Fund (ESF):** a grant of up to £3,000 each academic year for students who find themselves in unforeseen financial hardship.

**Am I eligible to apply?**

To be eligible for NHSLSF you must be in receipt of, or at least eligible for, the full tuition fee and maintenance loan package from the Student Loan Company. If you are eligible but have chosen to not take out the full loan, we ask you for some extra details when you apply for NHSLSF. You will also be studying at a university in England and be in attendance at a specified date, this will depend on when you started your course.

**How do I apply?**

If you are a **new** student starting your first year in September 2021, you will need to create an account on the new NHSLSF application system **from 1 June 2021**. When creating your account, please have the following details with you:

* **Your student finance confirmation letter**: you will need to upload this to your account as proof of eligibility. If you are eligible for student finance but have decided not to claim the full package, there is an option for you and you will be asked a series of additional questions so we can check your eligibility. Please have proof of identity with you, for example a passport.
* **Your bank details**: you will need to add this so you can be paid by NHSBSA Student Services. If you change bank accounts at any stage, you will be able to update your details. It’s really important you keep these details up to date.
* **Child’s birth certificate**: if you are applying for Parental Support at the same time as applying for the Training Grant, you will need a copy of your child’s birth certificate to upload to your account. If you have more than one child, we suggest uploading your youngest child’s birth certificate.

If you are a **continuing student** who is resuming study from 1 September 2021 you will receive an email from NHSBSA Student Services inviting you to attend. NHSBSA Student Services will start sending weekly invites out to students from 29 March. Please wait for this email before you apply. This is to allow them to process all applications on time. Don’t worry if you don’t receive your invite at the same time as your friends, everyone will get theirs in due course.

If you are due to continue your studies in January, February, March, April etc. you will be written to later in the year. This allows NHSBSA Student Services to process applications for students starting in September/October first.

**When will I receive my first payment?**

NHSLSF payments are staggered across three terms in-between your student finance payments. This allows you to receive a steady stream on funding throughout the academic year.

For students starting/resuming their course in September/October, the NHSBSA Student Services opens up invites to allow us to confirm your attendance from 1 November. Once we have done this your payments will be scheduled. You may notice an expected payment date in your account. This is an approximate date; depending on when we confirm your attendance you may receive your first payment earlier or later than this date.

Your remaining termly payments will be set dates and will show in your account once your first payment has been made.

Other cohorts can expect payments as follows, as above these are dependent on NHSBSA Student Services receiving confirmation of your attendance:

* January/February cohort – payment expected end of March
* March/April cohort – payment expected end of May
* July cohort – payment expected end of September

**FAQs**

We have a full FAQ document available here:

