

NHS Dental Bursary Scheme

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1 WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

All students who commenced their Dentistry degree prior to 2017-2018 undertaking the BDS at Glasgow, Dundee and Aberdeen University, who are eligible to live and work in Scotland indefinitely after graduation.

Details of a new scheme for students commencing their degree from 2017-2018 will be published shortly on the Scottish Government website. The following information only refers to the existing Dental Bursary Scheme.

2 BACKGROUND

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and the Scottish Government Health Directorate introduced a new Dental Bursary Scheme in 2006-2007 for all students studying a Dentistry (BDS) degree at Dundee and Glasgow University from second year onwards.

From 2008-2009 this scheme was widened to all 4 years of the graduate entry Dentistry degree at Aberdeen University.

We are responsible for administering this scheme and it is completely separate to any funding we currently provide to Scottish domiciled students. It is a £4,000 per year bursary, which is open to anyone studying Dentistry in Scotland who can commit to the required retention period with NHS Scotland. For Glasgow and Dundee students it is available from year 2 of their degree and for Aberdeen students it is available for the full four years.

3 CONTRACT WITH NHS SCOTLAND

Students who receive this bursary have to sign up for a maximum 5 year retention period (or equivalent part-time period) to work for NHS Scotland in Dentistry after they graduate. The retention period will vary depending on the number of years each student claims the bursary, as shown in the table below.

Number of years bursary claimed	Amount of bursary claimed	Length of retention period
4	£16,000	5 years
3	£12,000	4 years
2	£8,000	3 years

1	£4,000	2 years
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You will have to repay the bursary for the given year if you withdraw from the course or repay some or the entire bursary if you come out of the NHS before the end of the retention period.

4 TUITION FEES FOR GRADUATES

In 2008-2009, we extended the scheme to include tuition fee costs (£1820 per year) for students undertaking Dentistry as a second degree at a Scottish university. Payment of tuition fees is not conditional on students taking out the £4000 bursary. If you wish to apply for fees but not the bursary, then you do not have to complete the contracted period of employment with NHS Scotland. Universities may charge graduate a higher rate of tuition fees so the £1820 from us is unlikely to cover your full costs. Please check this with your university.

5 HOW DO I APPLY?

NHS Dental Bursary application forms are only available from your dental school. These forms are normally with the dental school by August each year. Remember, an application only covers you for a single academic year so you will need to reapply every year.

6 CONTACT US

If you need any further information then please have a look at the [FAQs](#) section in this document. Alternatively, you can contact us at:

Phone: 0131 244 4519

Email: SAASNHSBursaries@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

7 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

Why did you introduce the Dental Bursary?

Scottish Government introduced the bursary to try and help address the shortage of NHS dentists in Scotland.

Will the bursary affect the amount of student loan or any other grants I apply for?

Scottish Government decided not to include scholarships/sponsorships/training bursaries such as the Dental Bursary in the means-testing of student support. In effect, the £4000 Dental Bursary has no impact on the funding for Scottish domiciled students.

This may not be the case with other funding authorities in the UK and you should check with them if the NHS bursary will have an impact on your support.

What are the conditions of the tie-in with NHS Scotland?

If you take out the bursary for the maximum of 4 years, you must carry out a total of 5 years (or part-time equivalent) dental work with NHS Scotland. If you only claim the bursary for 3 years, 2 years or 1 year the tie-in period will be 4 years, 3 years and 2 years.

- The period of employment must begin within one calendar year of graduation and must be completed continuously without a break.

- At least 80% of an individual's total earnings must be from NHS Scotland.

What happens to the bursary if I withdraw from my course?

If you withdraw from the BDS, you will be required to repay the bursary you received for that year. For example, if you received a £4000 bursary in years 2 and 3, and then withdrew in year 3, you will be required to repay £4000. We will arrange repayment terms on an individual basis but we will not ask you to repay the whole amount in a lump sum.

What happens to the bursary if I do not comply with the NHS Scotland tie-in period post graduation?

You will be required to repay a proportion of your entire bursary if you do not meet the conditions of the tie-in period. The amount you repay will depend on how much of the tie-in period you actually complied with. If you did not comply with any of the tie-in period then you would have to repay the entire Dental Bursary you received throughout the degree. We will arrange repayment terms on an individual basis but we will not ask you to repay the whole amount in a lump sum.

What if I cannot meet the tie-in period due to special circumstances?

There is scope to extend the tie-in period to equate to the number of years required service if there are exceptional circumstances. Examples that we could consider would include, long term illness, NHS career break, maternity period, voluntary work, etc. We will consider every case on its own merits. Returning to full time Higher Education part way through your tie in period cannot be considered a special circumstance.

Will I be eligible to claim the bursary for any year of my BDS that I have to repeat?

We will give consideration to requests for repeat years. It will depend on the circumstances of each case as to whether we award the bursary.

Does the tie-in period include the Vocational Training (VT) or General Professional Training (GPT)?

Yes.

Am I still eligible for the £3,000 lump sum for VT in Scotland?

Yes.

Are more VT and or GPT places going to be made available in Scotland to allow me to work in NHS Scotland, rather than having no option but to look elsewhere in the UK for jobs?

Yes, but General Dental Practices will be the main career destination. Places in Scotland are by open competition and they are not guaranteed a VT or GPT place. If you can't get a place in Scotland and have to do VT elsewhere, you would have to return to a NHS Scotland post after VT and complete your tie-in period, or repay the bursary. Any VT or GPT year undertaken outside Scotland will not count towards your contracted service.

When do I receive my bursary?

Providing you have fully completed the application and contract then we will arrange to pay you as soon as we get confirmation from the university that you are in attendance.

Will I be eligible for the bursary if I am undertaking the BDS as a second degree?

Yes. Degree holders are eligible.

As a graduate entry student, will I be eligible to have my fees paid?

Yes, from session 2008-2009 we will pay the standard rate of tuition fees direct to your university, on your behalf, providing you are eligible to apply. However, your university may charge you a higher fee than the amount we pay. Please check this with your university.

Do I have to apply for the bursary in order to get my fees paid?

No, applicants do not have to sign up for the Dental Bursary Scheme or sign a contract to receive their course fees and there is no tie-in to the NHS.

Will I be eligible for the bursary if I undertake an intercalated degree during the BDS?

No. The bursary only applies to the actual BDS.

What is the closing date for applying?

The closing date for applications for either the bursary or tuition fees will be the last day of term, apart from final year students whose closing date will be 31 March 2017.

Will I be eligible for the bursary if after graduation I wish to specialise in Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery?

No. Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery is regarded as a medical specialty rather than a dental one.

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