



# SUPPORT FOR **PARAMEDIC, NURSING AND MIDWIFERY** STUDENTS IN SCOTLAND 2024/25

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## Introduction

This booklet provides information for students on pre-registration Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Science degree programmes in Scotland.

It describes the Paramedic, Nursing and Midwifery Student Bursary (PNMSB) Scheme in Scotland, who is eligible for it, what it is (including current rates) and how you can apply for it. This booklet is for guidance only. It cannot cover all individual circumstances. The scheme is administered by the Student Awards Agency Scotland (SAAS).

If you are a new Scottish student enrolling to study paramedic science, nursing or midwifery in England, Wales or Northern Ireland you are not eligible for this package. You should apply for the general undergraduate package on the SAAS website.

If you are from England, Wales or Northern Ireland, you are not eligible to apply for this package. You should apply to the funding body in your home country for support. If you are already registered with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, you are not eligible to apply for this package.

## Eligibility

Student eligibility for Paramedic Science, Nursing and Midwifery courses is determined by The Education (Fees) (Scotland) Regulations 2022 (as amended) and The Student Support (Scotland) Regulations 2022 (as amended).

This booklet is only intended to guide students to the main eligibility criteria set out in these regulations; it is not intended to be exhaustive.

Students undertaking courses in pre-registration Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Science degree courses in Scotland leading to the awarding of a degree may be eligible under the PNMSB scheme. Eligibility for support depends on THREE conditions:

- that your course is eligible;
- that you have not had previous PNMSB funding;
- that you meet the residence requirements.

### **Course eligibility**

Bursaries are for eligible students attending courses which:

- are partly or wholly funded by the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates (SGHSCD); and
- lead to initial registration on the Professional Register maintained by the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC); or
- lead to the award of a BSc Paramedic Science.

### **Students resident in UK countries – reciprocal arrangement**

- Students from England, Wales or Northern Ireland, who started their course from 2017/18 and thereafter and choose to study in Scotland, should apply to their home country funding body for their tuition fees, bursary and income-assessed living cost loan.
- New Scottish students who started their course from 2017/18 and thereafter and choose to study in England, Wales or Northern Ireland will not be able to access the non repayable, non income assessed PNMSB package. Instead, these students should apply to SAAS for the standard undergraduate package of a tuition fee loan and an income-assessed living cost loan while studying nursing, midwifery or paramedic science in other UK countries. Students can also apply for an Independent Students' Bursary, Young Students' Bursary and other living-cost grants, where eligible.

### **Residence eligibility**

To be eligible for SAAS Funding, students must meet the SAAS residency criteria.

Further information can be found at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk)

## **Students from the European Union**

EU students coming to Scotland to study in 2024/25 are not eligible for support.

Only EU students who started their course in 2020/21 or earlier will continue to be funded for the duration of their course.

Different arrangements apply for Irish Nationals coming from Republic of Ireland to study, UK nationals living elsewhere in the EU and students from Gibraltar. You should consult SAAS for details.



## Support for NHS employees who enter nursing education

Healthcare assistants entering the pre-registration programme after successfully completing an HNC in Healthcare may be offered the option of secondment from their NHS employers or they may apply for bursary support.

You may not receive your salary and a bursary at the same time. If you opt to take your salary, and subsequently wish to apply for a bursary, you may not do so until the next year of the course. You may not change your support arrangements during the year.

### **Secondment**

NHS employers may allow staff a period of secondment to undertake a nursing course on the basis of their existing pay and conditions. In these cases, you will not be able to apply for bursary support.

Your employer must decide whether to allow a secondment, however, employees do not have a right to a secondment. If your employer is unable to agree to secondment, you may choose to resign in order to undertake the course. In this case, you may be eligible for a bursary.

### **If you are a full-time employee seconded by an NHS Board you should**

- receive the basic pay for the post held immediately before start of training, and qualify for increments;
- keep your existing liability for tax and National Insurance;
- be eligible to join or remain in the NHS Superannuation and Injury Benefits Schemes;
- keep your existing rights under Agenda for Change Terms and Conditions of Services, with modifications to reflect your student status, e.g. annual leave; and
- be expected to undergo exactly the same educational programmes as other students.



**You and your employer should also have a clear agreement about:**

- whether or not you will be expected to work or be given the opportunity to work for your employer as a qualified nurse on completion of the course;
- how long you will be expected to do such work; and
- what will happen if you fail to complete the course.

Your employer must meet your travel and subsistence expenditure during practice placements.

**Part-time employees seconded by an NHS Board**

Part-time employees seconded to nursing courses should not suffer financially. Again, it is for your employer to decide whether you should be seconded on your existing part-time salary, or an enhanced salary, to take account of the fact that nursing courses are full time.





## The bursary

The bursary is for the normal duration of the course that you are undertaking. If you are taking the four-year honours nursing degree course and you are eligible for a bursary, you will receive the full bursary rate for years 1-3 and a 75% bursary for year 4. This reduction also applies to the associated income-assessed allowances outlined below. This is because year 4 does not cover the full 52 weeks.

The bursary covers the whole year and is a non-income-assessed personal allowance.

For 2024/25 the rate is:

- **£10,000** for students annually (**£7,500** for eligible students in year 4) paid monthly throughout the course.

**Students may also be eligible for one or more of the following allowances:**

- **£60** Initial Expenses Allowance. This will be included in the first instalment of the bursary.

An income-assessed Dependants Allowance, where appropriate. The maximum amounts you can receive through this allowance are:

- **£3,640** for a spouse or cohabitating partner or, if you are single, one adult you have a legal responsibility for with little or no income from any sources.
- **£3,640** for the first child where there is no dependant husband or wife, or other dependant adult.
- **£557** for each other dependant child.

You may claim the Dependents Allowance for your spouse or cohabiting partner, dependent children and any younger brothers or sisters for whom you have a legal responsibility. If any of these dependants have income of their own, the total amount will be taken into account, but £1,160 will be allowed against the income your dependants have.

Further information is available at [Paramedic, Nursing and Midwifery - SAAS - Funding](#)

An allowance is paid provisionally and SAAS will reassess your allowance at the end of your year of study when they receive confirmation of the actual income that your dependants received. If SAAS reduce the allowance as a result, you will have to repay the amount you received over your entitlement. The allowance will be paid with your bursary.

- **£2,303** Single Parent Allowance.
- Up to **£2,466** for registered childcare costs.

Childcare costs are available to students who have children and have expenses for registered childcare.

You can receive up to £2,466 a year, depending on the cost of childcare. 'Registered' childcare includes childminders, after-school clubs, providers of day-care and those who are registered with the Care Inspectorate. If you are getting your full childcare costs paid from other sources (for example, your institution) you should not apply for this grant.

You should apply to SAAS first for help with your childcare costs before you ask for help from any other source. When you fill in your application form you should tell SAAS if you think you may be entitled to this support. They will ask you for details about your childcare provider and confirmation of the amounts you will pay.

Students will be expected to make use of the Scottish Government's free childcare support where it is applicable. You can get up to 1,140 hours of funded early learning and childcare a year (around 30 hours a week in term time) [if your child is 3 or 4 years old](#). Some 2-year-old children are also eligible.

Visit your local [council's website](#) to find out what is available in your area.

- Disabled Student's Allowance

Disabled Student's Allowance (DSA) is a non-income-assessed allowance to cover extra costs or expenses you might have while studying which arise because of your disability. You can apply to SAAS for this allowance which is made up of three parts:

- Up to **£1,725** a year for any small items of equipment or consumables.
- Up to **£20,520** a year for non-medical personal help.
- Up to **£5,160** for major items of specialist equipment (this is a total amount for the course, not for each year of the course).

- Maternity Allowance

If a student wishes to withdraw from their course temporarily because of pregnancy and/or childbirth, the student will continue to receive their bursary support during the absence. In order to do so, the student must discuss their circumstances with the course leader at the university and agree start and end dates for the period of absence.

The earliest date for maternity leave to begin would normally be 11 weeks before their expected due date. It is for students and universities to agree when the student will return, but this continued support will only be available for a maximum of 45 weeks.

Universities will advise SAAS of the agreed leave, start and return dates. When a student begins their period of approved absence, they will then continue to receive the support that they would have received if they had continued on the course.

However, childcare allowance will normally cease once the authorised absence formally starts, unless the student is contractually committed beyond that date.

### **Discretionary Fund**

The Paramedic, Nursing and Midwifery Discretionary Fund is open to all UK domiciled students studying on pre-registration paramedic science, nursing and midwifery programmes at Scottish universities. This fund supports students who are in financial difficulties to either access or continue in Higher Education. Payments from the fund will be made in addition to any other form of student support.

You should contact the finance or student services department of your university for further information.

## Applying for the bursary and allowances

You can apply for student funding at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk) by completing an online application form.

Once they have processed your application, an award notice will go on to your SAAS account. All instalments for each year will be paid into your bank account. You must supply valid bank account details at the time of applying, and advise SAAS of any changes to these details.

Scottish students choosing to study paramedic science, nursing and midwifery in other UK countries should apply to SAAS for the standard undergraduate package.

### **Expenses for clinical placement**

Practice learning is the part of the course that consists of supervised practice in a health or social care environment. You can claim expenses for some extra travel and reasonable accommodation costs, so you are not out of pocket.

Educational or observational visits that are part of the general academic costs of the course should be paid for by your institution.

Students can apply for advanced payments of expenses through their university.

### **Young persons' free bus travel**

All 5–21-year-old residents in Scotland are eligible from 31 January 2022 for Young Persons' Free Bus Travel, using a National Entitlement Card with the free bus travel product on it.

If you are aged under 22 and a resident in Scotland for the majority of the year (at least 6 months), you will be eligible for the free bus travel scheme, including if you are a student from outside of Scotland who has come over to study and are living in Scotland.

The introduction of the Travel Scheme in 2022/23 has resulted in a change to the claim and payment of expenses in relation to bus travel.

If you are eligible for the Free Bus Travel Scheme, you will not be eligible to claim bus fares from placement expenses and should now do so via the new Free Bus Travel Scheme.

Bus travel should be used as the normal mode of transport to placement unless it is not possible to do so.

More information on the Free Bus Travel Scheme can be found on Transport Scotland's website at the following link:

<https://www.transport.gov.scot/concessionary-travel/young-persons-free-bus-travel-scheme/#69512>

### **Travel expenses**

As there is £5 included within the bursary for daily travel already, you can only claim for placement travel if the cheapest method of public transport exceeds £5 per day, unless claiming for patient visits only.

Students are currently eligible to apply for expenses for all modes of transport. You are expected to use student offers, free bus travel, season passes and zone cards wherever possible. If your claim is more than the cheapest fare available, your claim will be restricted to the cheapest fare. If public transport is available but you choose to use your own car, expenses will be restricted to the cost of public transport.

If nearby public transport is unavailable for your shift times, you must seek agreement in advance from your institution to use your car. The use of your car may also be authorised if you are using it to reach nearby public transport or are on a community placement **and** have used your car for patient visits. You will be reimbursed at the current motor mileage rate of 45p per mile. Motorcycle allowance is 24p per mile.

If using your car for travel, you must ensure you have adequate insurance cover. If you are required to change your insurance cover from personal to commute/business for placement travel, you will be able to claim the additional charge as an expense.

Airfares can be paid in exceptional circumstances and where your institution is satisfied, they are justified over other travel options. You should always seek your institution's agreement in advance and get written agreement if you want to have airfares paid.

If you expect your travel costs to exceed £30 you should seek local accommodation in advance of your placement wherever possible. You will be expected to source reasonably priced accommodation and agree that with your institution.

You will not be reimbursed for taxi fares, tips, sleeper berths, carriage of luggage or bicycles, parking costs and any travel not directly related to the practice placement.

### **Accommodation**

You can claim for reasonable accommodation costs if you have to live away from home or a term time address whilst on placement.

You should seek authorisation from your university before you arrange the accommodation. If you incur costs for staying with friends or family, we will reimburse you up to a maximum of £15 per night. The cost of all meals, food etc. during placement that are not included in accommodation costs (i.e. bed & breakfast) must be met from your personal allowance.

Placements outside Scotland will only be approved in exceptional cases, authorisation by your university must be obtained before placement is confirmed.



**Applying for placement expenses**

You should apply for placement expenses as soon as possible after your placement. Should you require an advance payment, please contact your university finance department to apply.

Give your completed expenses form to your institution. They will assess each claim on its merits, deciding the most appropriate method and costs of travel, before passing the approved claim to SAAS who will arrange for payment to your bank account within two weeks of receiving the approved claim.

All claims must be received by SAAS within six months of your placement end date.

## General Information

### **Study after qualification**

The PNMSB scheme does not provide support for paramedics, nurses or midwives who have completed their course, or are eligible to be placed on the Professional Register, to top up their qualification to degree or honours degree level.

### **Studying abroad**

Some students may be allowed by their institution to undertake part (one module) of their course abroad. Where this period abroad is an integral part of the course, contributing to qualification as a paramedic, nurse or midwife and is included in the normal three-year bursary period (four years for honours degree students), the bursary will continue to be paid for the period abroad.

No additional funding will be available, and no travel costs will be paid.

## Other sources of information

Once you are offered a place on your course, you can apply to SAAS for funding. You will be able to apply online in the spring for courses starting in Autumn 2024. The only way to apply is to use the SAAS online application service which can be accessed from their website at [www.saas.gov.uk](http://www.saas.gov.uk). You must apply for the bursary each year.

For enquiries about your bursary contact:

Student Awards Agency Scotland  
Saughton House  
Broomhouse Drive  
EDINBURGH  
EH11 3UT  
**tel:** 0300 555 0505  
<https://www.saas.gov.uk/contact-us>

Students are recruited and processed by the UCAS application system.

UCAS  
PO Box 21  
Cheltenham GL52 3CZ  
**tel:** 0871 4680468  
**e-mail:** [enquiries@ucas.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@ucas.co.uk)



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