

MA Social Work Bursary *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)*

It is really important to prepare in advance so you feel confident about being able to pay for your university fees. For some students bursaries from our NHSBSA stakeholder can form part of this picture. We strongly recommend you read the guidance on the NHS bursary website and the FAQs below carefully so you are fully informed.

Please note that should you receive a bursary, funds will not be paid until after the start of the semester. Therefore you will be expected to pay a portion of the tuition fees during the enrolment period to enable you to enrol on the course.

Q. How do I know if I am eligible for a bursary?

You need to check the NHS bursary website to check whether you are eligible or not:

<https://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students>

Q. If I am eligible for a bursary what do I do next?

Follow the guidance on the NHS bursary website about applying for a bursary place. Please note eligible students should apply for the bursary ahead of the deadline set on the NHSBSA. Where the university is able to nominate students for a bursary nomination recommendation, the final decision is made by NHSBSA. Being nominated by the university for a bursary does not guarantee that you will receive a bursary. NHSBSA will confirm the final list of students who will receive financial assistance.

Q. Does everyone receive a bursary?

No. The government sets the number of bursaries available for Social Work and this is less than the numbers of students on the programme. Given the number of available bursaries are limited there is no guarantee that you will receive a social work bursary even if your application is accepted by NHSBSA and you take up an offer of a course place.

Q. How does the university decide who is shortlisted for a bursary nomination recommendation?

The number of bursary recipients are capped. As the number of students commencing social work programmes can exceed the number of bursaries available, **there is no guarantee that all students will receive a bursary.** To determine which students are successful with securing a bursary, subject to meeting the NHS Bursary requirements, the University prioritises applicants based on a ranking during the selection interview. This ranking is based on the overall score achieved by applicants.

Q. When will I be notified whether or not I have been shortlisted?

You will be notified whether you have been shortlisted after the recruitment cycle has closed. The timing for this varies but is likely to be at some point during the summer.

Q. Am I able to appeal if I am not nominated for a bursary?

There is no right to appeal the LSBU decision process made with NHSBSA or the university should you not be nominated for a bursary. However we do hold a waiting list in the event a bursary nomination recommendation becomes available we will reallocate it to someone else. We will not be able to advise you were on the waitlist you have been placed.

Q. Am I able to transfer a Social Work bursary that I received from another university to LSBU?

No. If you transfer from another university your bursary will not automatically transfer with you.

Q. Are there any other allowances that I may be eligible to apply for?

Even if you are not nominated for a bursary by LSBU you may still be eligible for a Placement Travel Allowance if you satisfy the residency and other eligibility criteria. Please refer to the NHSBSA website for more information.

Q. Will the bursary cover all my fees and costs?

No. You will need to carefully consider the costs by checking the LSBU website (and liaise with the Fees team) for up to date fees information. It is also worth checking the amount the bursary will cover. You will need to be able to fund the remainder yourself. Please also visit the NHSBSA website for more information.

Q. How does the Bursary affect my enrolment?

In order to enrol you will need to demonstrate to LSBU how you are going to pay your fees. This may include:

- Confirmation from NHSBSA that you will receive a bursary once enrolled (bursary letter)
- Evidence of a tuition fee loan (or postgraduate loan where applicable) from Student Finance England
- A letter of sponsorship from an employer/recognised sponsor
- Payment of tuition fees
- If you are paying your own tuition fees, you will be required to pay a minimum of 50% of the fee during your enrolment in order to fully enrol. It is imperative that you ensure you have sufficient funds in place to cover your tuition fees.

How does the bursary affect my funding?

If you are in receipt of an NHS Social Work Bursary (helping to cover tuition fees and living costs) you will not be eligible to apply to Student Finance England for a postgraduate loan.

Q. LSBU emailed me to advise that I have been nominated for a bursary, when will I receive my funds?

After you receive notification of the nomination from us at LSBU, assuming you have also applied to NHS bursaries directly and are eligible, NHSBSA will then process your application. Please visit the NHSBSA website for timescales.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON TIMESCALES: The bursary is not released until after you begin your studies. This is because NHSBSA will not release your bursaries until:

- you are fully enrolled at LSBU
- LSBU have confirmed your attendance once you have satisfied all enrolment conditions

Q. Do I need to do anything else?

Once you have received a bursary nomination letter from LSBU you will need to confirm acceptance of the bursary offer by the deadline outlined on the nomination letter. Failure to confirm acceptance of the nomination by the deadline date will result in your nomination being automatically reallocated to a student on the waitlist.

Q. If I received a bursary in year 1 will I automatically receive it in year 2 and when?

No. You will need to re-apply through NHSBSA for your second year of bursary. This is subject to you continuing to meet the eligibility criteria and successfully completing the full application process within the deadline set by NHSBSA. Please be aware that NHS bursaries will not release your funds until:

- you are fully re-enrolled at LSBU
- LSBU have confirmed your attendance at the beginning of the academic year