

Bursary Consultation - England

Highlights from the Impact Assessment
produced by the Department of Health

In a Nutshell

- **IMPORTANT – this policy change is out to consultation and only affects England**
- All new nursing, midwifery, and AHP students to receive financial support and funding through the standard student support system for both living costs and tuition from 2017.

What this means

- The removal of the bursary scheme for all new students commencing studies from August 2017
- The removal of funded Fees for all new students commencing studies from August 2017
- Student ability to access the Student Loans system which will provide more available funding whilst undertaking study

Benefits

- Enabling students to fund their courses through loans **removes the constraint on course numbers** which should encourage HEIs to offer more nursing, midwifery and AHP courses.
- The precise impact is difficult to estimate with certainty.
- However, it has been estimated that **some 10,000 more places in total might be made available** by the end of this (UK) parliament.
- Further benefits from more directly linking study and costs

Rationale for intervention

- Government intervention in higher education is required to address the underlying market failures which would result in financial burden to the NHS and restrictions on the opportunities available to potential students and NHS workers.

Rationale for intervention

- Without sufficient supply of healthcare graduates, the health and care system costs may rise, and/or the benefits from the health and care system may be limited.

Government Policy Objectives

- a **more consistent set of training numbers** each year, not subject to year on year variation caused by spending budget changes;
- **reduced exchequer costs** with students funding their training through the standard student support system, **paying back only when they are graduates and their earnings are sufficient**;
- **increased student numbers** and consequently **more qualified staff available to work in the NHS**;
- **reduced student attrition** and **increased commitment to employment in the health system**; and
- **better courses** that are **more responsive to student needs**.

Key benefits to students:

- the receipt of the new living cost support while studying
- plus any (non-repayable) grants and allowances paid for childcare etc.
- The key economic cost is the removal of the Bursary for tuition and living costs. The student benefits from the system of loans, grants and allowances (which is **typically 25% more than the living support provided by the current system**), therefore there is a **net gain to the student while they are studying**.
- The student also benefits from the tuition fee payment. Potential students who would otherwise not have been able to **access** a place to study nursing, midwifery or AHP also benefit substantially.

- Any Questions?