

Reference: 17940

To: Professional Bodies
Nursing and Midwifery Professional Advisory Board
Allied Health Professional Advisory Board
Medical Education England Programme Board
Medical Education England Dental Programme Board
Medical Education England Healthcare Science Programme Board
Medical Education England Modernising Pharmacy Careers Programme Board

CC: Workforce Availability Policy and Programme Implementation Group
National Education Commissioners Network
Workforce Directors of SHA clusters
National Workforce Planners Network
MPET Finance Leads Networks
Health Professional Regulators
Health Trade Unions

22 June 2012

Dear Colleagues

Professional Eligibility for the NHS Bursary Scheme – Call for Evidence

In accordance with the outcome from the workstreams resulting from the Review of NHS Student Support, the Department of Health has implemented a mechanism to enable consideration, against a set of agreed standard criteria, of inclusion in the NHS Bursary Scheme for professions that do not currently attract a NHS bursary. **The Department of Health is not seeking submissions for professions already included in the Scheme.**

The Department of Health is therefore initiating a call for evidence to health professional organisations if they wish to be considered for professional eligibility for inclusion in the NHS Bursary Scheme. Organisations will need to present a submission of all relevant evidence as outlined.

Organisations must provide some background information as per the cover sheet.

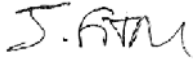
In order to be considered, professions must be able to firstly demonstrate that the Stage 1 criteria are fully met. These are included in Annex 1.

If the profession meets all of the criteria in Annex 1, additional narrative is required to progress through Stage 2. The organisation must provide information against each of the criteria as specified in Annex 2. A template is provided at Annex 3 for submission of this information.

The completed evidence must be submitted to Sarah Aartse-Tuyn at Sarah.aartse-tuyn@dh.gsi.gov.uk by 17 August 2012. There can be no extension to deadline offered.

In the event of professions being found ineligible for inclusion, this decision will normally remain in force for a three year period unless there are specific changes to policy that would support a resubmission within a shorter timescale.

For any queries, please contact Sarah.aartse-tuyn@dh.gsi.gov.uk



Jennifer Firth
Head of Education Funding Policy
External Relations Directorate
Department of Health

Cover Sheet

Name of Submitting Organisation	
Profession (this is the profession that the Submitting Organisation is requesting to be considered for inclusion in the NHS Bursary Scheme.)	
Registration Body	
Details of educational programme/s in England leading to registration	
Number of education institutions in England providing programme/s	
Number of new student entrants per year	
Current total numbers in training in England (approximately)	
Brief details of student populations, for example: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Gender profile• Age profile• Ethnicity profile	
Brief details relating to programme/s: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of applications per place• Attrition from training• Current support package	
Any relevant information from student surveys	
Any plans for future changes to the education and/or qualification	
Any unique features or other relevant information	

Annex 1.

Core Key Criteria

	Yes	No
Is the professional programme fully funded from the Multi-Professional Education and Training Levy as the national standard model?		
Is the professional programme Strategic Health Authority/ NHS commissioned as the national standard model?		
Does the professional programme lead to professional primary registration with a recognised professional regulatory body such as the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the Health Professions Council or the General Dental Council?		
Is the professional programme at Diploma of Higher Education level or Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Level 6 or above?		

Annex 2.

Rationale

Title	Description
Recruitment and retention	The problem of recruiting and/or retaining students to the profession or role or up to the point of qualification must be an influencing factor. The proposals should not discourage students from seeking a career in healthcare.
Consistency	The proposals should support a consistent national approach.
Fair	The proposals provide a reasonable level of support for healthcare students to achieve reasonable work/life balance, including part-time students.
Student debt	The proposals enable students to study appropriately and without financial distraction, and do not create inappropriate student debt relative to future salary income compared with other students in higher education, allowing for health programme-specific differences.
Value for money	The proposals provide demonstrable value for money in terms of the level of student support per year of working life in the NHS. The measure takes into account: course length, student support for duration of study, attrition rates, conversion rates (rate of employment in NHS after graduation) and participation (average length of working life in the NHS).
Affordable	The proposals, including transitional costs, are affordable within existing Department of Health budgets and have been prioritised by the Secretary of State, or options for securing additional funding have been developed. The proposals should mitigate any financial barriers to people who have caring responsibilities.
Administration/ infrastructure	The costs of implementing and administering new proposals and any associated infrastructure and transitional costs are robust. Proposals are based on a workable infrastructure and the benefits for change should exceed the costs.
Widens participation	The proposals encourage students from a wide range of backgrounds to apply for healthcare courses reducing any problems of over-representation and thus increasing participation of groups that are under-represented within particular professions. The proposals should encourage a diverse range of students to undertake healthcare programmes, particularly those with caring responsibilities and non-traditional students. The proposals should also consider whether there are any particular groups that are likely to be under-represented within the profession and whether financial reasons are a factor in this.
Links to wider government policy	The proposals are coherent with wider government policy and other government funding. There are no inappropriate or unnecessary conflicts with government policies on support, either for students or others receiving government financial support. The proposals must also consider the availability of support from other sources.
Long term	The proposals are sufficiently flexible to take account of forecast changes to workforce planning and the relevant modernising careers frameworks.
Equality and diversity	<p>The proposals should take account of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote equality of opportunity • Promote positive attitudes towards disabled people, encourage the participation of disabled people and enable equal treatment of disabled people <p>The proposals should not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present problems or barriers to any community or group • Conflict with human rights • Exclude any group • Worsen any existing discrimination and inequality

Annex 3.

Template for completion

Title	Descriptor examples	Narrative
Recruitment and retention	Detail here any relevant information about recruitment and retention, such as difficulties recruiting to the programme/s, the factors that affect this, and how it would improve if the profession were eligible for a bursary	
Consistency	Detail here any other professions considered to be similar to this profession	
Fair	Detail here any issues regarding current levels of support and the impact this is having on the training and the profession	
Student debt	Highlight any relevant financial issues and any impact this is having on the students or the profession	

Value for money	Detail any issues here regarding value for money such as perceived cost benefits analysis	
Affordable	Provide details of where current funding sits and how this might enable affordability or where there are any anticipated funding developments that may impact	
Administration/ infrastructure	Provide details of any administration or infrastructure as may be relevant, for example where there may be benefits incurred due to reduced administration	
Widens participation	Provide details of where there is currently any over or under representation and/or perceived benefits associated with the proposals	
Links to wider government policy	Provide details of any related policies and any other sources of support in the system whether current or future	

Long term	Provide evidence that the proposal takes account of any future developments such as changes to education and/or qualification	
Equality and diversity	Provide any evidence relating to equality and diversity that needs to be considered	

