

Student support arrangements

Page 1: Health related education and training programmes in Wales

Question 1 - Should the Welsh Government continue to provide support to those studying health care related programmes?

Yes

Question 2 - Do you agree any Bursary arrangements established for the future should continue to be based on supporting individuals who choose to study in Wales regardless of their domicile?

Yes

Question 3 - Do you agree the format of healthcare courses should be recognised and addressed through any future arrangements?

Yes

Question 4 - Do you have any views about ways in which this can be addressed?

The BDA welcome Welsh Government's (WG) commitment to supporting students on pre-registration healthcare programmes. We are keen to ensure that this support extends to the practice based learning that forms part of these programmes. This is an essential part of the learning of our future Allied Health Professionals including dietitians and students need to be supported during this phase of their learning. We ask WG to make sure that the funding for practice based learning takes into account the travel and accommodation implications of students accepting placements that are often many miles from their universities.

The BDA is keen to ensure that future funding recognises the contribution of all providers of placements not just clinical providers. Our students may go to placements in the private sector, industry and third sector and funding should follow the student to make this possible. These types of placements give experience to students that can be of benefit to their overall learning and ultimately benefit both the health economy and the health of the nation.

Question 5 - Do you agree placement capacity should continue to be managed through a commissioning process, which in the future would be led by Health Education and Improvement Wales?

Yes

Question 6 - Should the NHS Bursary continue in the future what methodology should be used to determine which education and training programmes should be supported through a revised health student support arrangements?

Restrict to those programmes which lead to registration and therefore without the qualification individuals are not able to practice in their chosen profession.

Question 7 - Are there other approaches which you consider could be applied, if so, please specify?

It is important that only those courses that enable students to become registered in their chosen healthcare profession are funded. The employment by the NHS of registered and regulated healthcare professionals, e.g. dietitians as opposed to non-regulated 'nutritionists' and 'nutritional therapists', protects the public from under qualified and disreputable people who can cause harm. WG cannot be seen to be helping fund courses that do not train registered healthcare professionals as this would seem to endorse the employment of these people.

Question 8 - Do you agree that any package of enhanced support for individuals should continue to require individuals to commit to a proportionate period of post-qualification employment in Wales?

No

Question 9 - Do you agree that the post qualification criteria should be extended to include other employment settings?

Yes

Question 10 - If so, please specify these settings? (It would also help if you could provide reasons for each new setting suggested)

The health of the nation relies on the interplay of direct (e.g. diet, food and exercise, alcohol and smoking) and indirect factors/ wider determinants of health (such as housing and economic status). Therefore with the 'whole systems approach' envisioned by the 'A Healthier Wales' document it is logical that healthcare professionals employed outside of the clinical settings should also be included in the post qualification criteria. Dietitians may find employment in medical nutrition companies, the food industry, charities, private hospitals and local authorities. Their work in all of these settings will contribute to the overall health of the nation.

Question 11 - Do you think individuals who have received support for an initial programme should be able to receive support through a Bursary arrangement to undertake additional education and training programmes?

Yes

Question 12 - If yes, Do you think second and subsequent programmes should only be supported where the health system in Wales is experiencing difficulties with workforce capacity in specific areas?

No

Question 13 - Should an exception be made to allow first degree holders wishing to study a second degree on a healthcare programme in England access to student support, whilst non healthcare students are not eligible for additional support?

Yes

Question 14 - Should the support provided for second and subsequent support packages for health related programmes be conditional upon individuals committing to work in Wales post qualification?

No

Question 15 - Do you consider there are issues which relate to equality and diversity which should be taken into account in developing future policy in this area?

Yes

Question 16 - If you answered yes, please highlight the issues you feel should be taken into account.

The BDA believes that the dietetic profession should reflect the population it serves. A dietetic workforce made up of individuals in all the protected characteristic categories will both understand and relate better to the communities it is there to serve and hence will be more effective.

We want to see a widening participation in healthcare profession courses and hope that the Diamond package will enable that to happen.

Question 17 - Should support programmes be aligned with those for other health related programmes in the future? (medical and dental)

Yes

Question 18 - Which of the proposed options do you think is the most appropriate for the long-term sustainability of the NHS workforce in Wales?

Option 2: Healthcare students receive the standard maintenance support package through Student Finance Wales. An NHS Bursary would cover the funding of full tuition fees up to a maximum and an additional funding element for additional costs for clinical placements. This would not be subject to an agreement regarding post-qualification employment.

20. What are your thoughts on the support for healthcare students? Should there be a focus on support for tuition fees or living costs?

Living Costs

Page 2: Submit your response

You are about to submit your response. Please ensure you are satisfied with the answers you have provided before sending.

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If you want to receive a receipt of your response, please provide an email address. Email address

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