******NHS CAREERS**

As we approach our 8th week of lockdown in the UK, we stand on our doorsteps, united with our neighbours to applaud the tremendous efforts made by our NHS and key workers. Whilst many of us have been able to stay safe inside, working from home, socially distancing and limiting outings; our NHS staff have been on the frontline fighting to save our lives. We recognise now more than ever, the strength and courage of these once unsung heroes, showing our appreciation as a nation and celebrating their success in battle with the deadly COVID-19 virus.

Did you know that the NHS actively recruits people of all ages, backgrounds and levels of experience? In turn, this helps NHS staff to understand the different needs of patients and provide them with the best possible service. They offer employees one of the most competitive and flexible benefits packages offered by any employer in the UK. As an NHS employee you would be guaranteed a salary that reflects both your ability and level of responsibility. You would also be given every opportunity to increase this through further training and professional development. As an NHS employee you would be entitled to at least 27 days paid holiday (FTE), increasing to 33 days after 10 years of service. As well as access to occupational health and counselling, you would be automatically enrolled on to the NHS pension scheme (which you can opt out of).

Further to the benefits of being a member of the NHS workforce, you can also receive money to train with the NHS. The ‘NHS Bursary’ is available to UK residents, studying an NHS career course at University. If eligible for the bursary, the NHS also pay your standard tuition fees (paid directly to the University). There are also supplementary grants for parents, carers and those living with a disability. Students can also claim back their travel expenses when out on placement and in February 2020 the government confirmed extra financial support for nursing and midwifery students, as well as many other allied health profession students.

Students from England, Wales and Scotland taking an eligible pre-registration healthcare course may qualify for extra grants, including the new £5,000 annual training grant (available from September 2020). Students on the following healthcare courses will be eligible to apply for this grant:

* Dental hygiene or dental therapy (level 5 and level 6 courses)
* Dietetics
* Midwifery
* Nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing/social work)
* Occupational therapy
* Operating department practitioner (level 5 and level 6 courses)
* Orthoptics
* Orthotics and prosthetics
* Paramedicine
* Physiotherapy
* Podiatry or chiropody
* Radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
* Speech and language therapy

In addition to this, students that are studying one of the specialist subjects such as Mental Health Nursing, Learning Disability Nursing, Radiography, Prosthetics & Orthotics, Orthoptics & Podiatry; will also be eligible for the ‘Specialist Subject Payment’ of £1,000.



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Parents will be entitled to apply for the ‘Parental Support Grant’ of up to £2,000 (this does not affect childcare allowance) and there will be regional incentive payments of £1,000 (regions are yet to be confirmed). Students whose income is not enough to meet their expenses, despite careful budgeting, will also be able to apply for extra funding of up to £3,000 through the ‘Exceptional Support Fund’.

If you are considering an NHS career and want to find out more about your options, why not go to <https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/careers/take-the-test> and complete the ‘Step Into the NHS’ quiz to find out which role best suits you!

For more information on NHS careers and to see what roles the NHS are recruiting for in your area then go to:

<https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/> or <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/>

If you are interested in applying to study a health related course at University then go to <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/career-planning/study-and-training/considering-or-university/applying-university-through-ucas> and then search for the courses you are interested in at <https://www.ucas.com/>

Or if you are considering an NHS apprenticeship then find out more at: <https://www.stepintothenhs.nhs.uk/apprenticeships>

<https://www.findapprenticeship.service.gov.uk/apprenticeshipsearch>

*Sources:*

[*https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits*](https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/working-health/working-nhs/nhs-pay-and-benefits) *12/05/2020*

[*https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/finance/nhs-bursary*](https://www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk/student-advice/finance/nhs-bursary) *12/05/2020*

[*https://www.gov.uk/nhs-bursaries/what-youll-get*](https://www.gov.uk/nhs-bursaries/what-youll-get)

*13/05/2020*