

## Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) Bursary Scheme - information sheet

### Content

- [Who is eligible?](#)
- [Background](#)
- [Contract with NHS Scotland](#)
- [How do I apply?](#)
- [Contact us](#)
- [Questions and answers](#)

### **Who is eligible?**

Any student who has been offered, formally accepted and has been registered a place on the Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM) programme.

### **Background**

The ScotGEM programme is designed to develop doctors interested in a career as a generalist practitioner within NHS Scotland. ScotGEM offers a unique and innovative four-year graduate entry medical programme tailored to meet the contemporary and future needs of the NHS in Scotland and focuses on rural medicine and general practice.

NES are responsible for administering this Bursary scheme which is open to any student on the ScotGEM programme and can commit to the required return of service period with NHS Scotland.

### **Contract with NHS Scotland**

If you are awarded a Bursary then you are entering into an obligation to apply to undertake Foundation Training and, if appropriate, specialty training anywhere in Scotland. The return of service period will vary depending on the number of years each student claims the Bursary, as shown in the table below.

Number of years Bursary claimed	Amount of Bursary claimed	Length of return of service period
4	£16,000	4 years
3	£12,000	3 years
2	£8,000	2 years
1	£4,000	1 year

### **How do I apply?**

ScotGEM Bursary application forms are available from the NHS Education for Scotland website: <http://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainer-information/scottish-graduate-entry-medicine-scotgem/>

An application only covers you for a single academic year therefore you will need to reapply every year.

### **Contact us**

If you need any further information then please have a look at the FAQs section in this document. Alternatively, you can contact us at:

Email: [scotgembursary@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:scotgembursary@nes.scot.nhs.uk)

### **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)**

#### **Why did you introduce the ScotGEM Bursary?**

The Scottish Government introduced the Bursary to try and help address the shortage of NHS doctors in Scotland with a focus on primary care and remote & rural medicine.

The ScotGEM programme is part of the medical education package, announced by the Scottish Government in 2016, to increase the sustainability of the medical workforce in Scotland. These measures have been developed not only to address the more immediate recruitment and retention challenges we face in NHS Scotland, and specifically in primary care, but in response to strategic requirements such as the need to widen access into medical education in Scotland.

#### **What are the conditions of the return of service with NHS Scotland?**

If you take out the Bursary for the maximum of 4 years, you must carry out a total of 4 years (or part-time equivalent) work as a doctor with NHS Scotland. If you only claim the Bursary for 3 years, 2 years or 1 year the return of service period will be 3 years, 2 years and 1 year. The period of employment must begin within 12 months of graduation and must be completed continuously without a break.

#### **What happens to the Bursary if I withdraw from my course?**

Failure to be awarded an MBChB (graduation from course) will be treated as a Default of the Bursary and the Student will be required to repay to Scottish Ministers the full amount of the Bursary received. We will arrange repayment terms on an individual basis and while we may not require you to repay the whole amount in a lump sum you will have to begin repayment within 3 months of leaving the programme.

#### **What happens to the Bursary if I do not apply to work in NHS Scotland, fulfilling the return of service period post-graduation?**

You will be required to repay a proportion of your entire Bursary if you do not meet the conditions of the return of service period. The amount you repay will depend on how much of the return of service period you actually complied with. If you did not comply

with any of the return of service period then you will have to repay the entire Bursary you received throughout the degree. We will arrange repayment terms on an individual basis and while we may not require you to repay the whole amount in a lump sum you will have to begin repayment within 3 months.

**What if I cannot meet the return of service period due to special circumstances?**

There is scope to extend the return of service period to equate to the number of years required service if there are exceptional circumstances. Examples that we could consider would include, long term illness, maternity period etc. We will consider every case on its own merits. Returning to full time Higher Education part way through your return of service period cannot be considered a special circumstance.

**Do I have to apply for the Bursary in order to get my tuition fees paid?**

No, applicants do not have to sign up for a Bursary or sign a contract to receive their course fees. The return of service element is not linked to tuition fees.

**Will the Bursary affect the amount of student loan or any other grants I apply for?**

The £4,000 Bursary has no impact on the funding for Scottish domiciled students. However, this may not be the case with other funding authorities in the UK and you should check with them if the Bursary will have an impact on your support.

**Will I be eligible to claim the Bursary for any year of the course that I have to repeat?**

We will give consideration to requests for repeat years but the maximum Bursary payable to one student to graduate with a ScotGEM MBChB is £16,000.

**If I apply for the Bursary, am I guaranteed a place in Foundation Training and specialty training in Scotland?**

No, the application process is a competitive process. Students in receipt of a Bursary are required to select Scotland as their first preference for Foundation Training, specialty training or any other post considered.

**If I am unsuccessful in securing a Foundation Training post in Scotland will I have to repay the Bursary**

No, but you will be required to select Scotland as your first preference for all specialty posts or any other post considered.

**When do I receive my Bursary?**

Providing you have fully completed the application and contract then we will arrange to pay you as soon as we get confirmation from the university that you are in attendance. The £4,000 Bursary will be paid by cheque in 2 stages: mid October and start February of each academic year.

**Can a student leave the return of service scheme?**

Yes, students will be able to buy themselves out if they no longer wish to comply with the terms of the scheme.

**What is the closing date for applying?**

The closing date for applications for the Bursary in academic year 2019/20 is 30<sup>th</sup> August 2019.

**If you are a recipient of the ScotGEM Bursary return of service scheme please can you ensure you keep your contact details up to date – this can be done by sending your name, email address and ScotGEM programme registration number to the ScotGEM Bursary dedicated mailbox at [scotgembursary@nes.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:scotgembursary@nes.scot.nhs.uk)**