

**Scottish Graduate Entry Medicine (ScotGEM)**

**Bursary Scheme - information sheet**

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**Who is eligible?**

Any student who has been offered, formally accepted and has been registered for 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 doctor 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 remote and rural medicine and general practice.

NES is responsible for administering this Bursary scheme on behalf of the Scottish Ministers. The scheme is open to any student on the ScotGEM programme who 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/ or Specialty training or other work as a doctor in the NHS, 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  |

\*Based on working full time, if you work part time for any or all of your training these periods will be extended

**Repayment of Bursary**

If you are awarded a Bursary and do not satisfy your return of service period, you will be required to repay the owed amount to the Scottish Ministers. NES administers the arrangements for repayment on behalf of the Scottish Ministers.

You must advise NES if you no longer comply with any of the conditions upon which the Bursary was awarded. These are found in the terms and conditions attached to the award of a Bursary. This means that you must advise NES if you -

* Withdraw from the Medical Programme
* Do not intend to apply to Foundation training in Scotland
* Do not accept a Foundation place in Scotland if a place is offered
* Do not complete your Foundation training in Scotland
* Do not intend to apply to Specialty training in Scotland
* Do not enter Specialty training in Scotland
* Intend to work part time (to allow us to adjust timescales)

You should provide this information to NES by email to scotgembursary@nes.scot.nhs.uk

NES will then arrange a meeting with you to discuss setting up a repayment plan. These will be individual to each person, but the standard options will be:

Option 1: The full amount of Bursary to be repaid straight away

Option 2: Student to repay over a length of time that does not exceed twice the length of the period over which they received a Bursary. The repayment plan can include a higher initial payment.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Number of years Bursary claimed  | Length of return of service period  | Maximum Length of Repayment |
| 4  | 4 years  | 8 years |
| 3  | 3 years  | 6 years |
| 2  | 2 years  | 4 years |
| 1  | 1 year  | 2 years |

You will receive a summary of payments made by you, and the outstanding sum to be paid on an annual basis. You will agree to update NES of any change of address or contact information.

**How do I apply?**

ScotGEM Bursary application forms are available from the NHS Education for Scotland website.

:[http://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainer-information/scottishgraduate-entry-medicine-scotgem/](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

# 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.

**When do Bursary applications close?**

The closing date for Year One applications for the Bursary in academic year 2023/24 is Friday 8th September 2023.

The closing date for Year Two, Year Three and Year Four applications for the Bursary in academic year 2023/24 is Friday 4th August 2023.

**Please note the same email address must be used throughout each year you obtain the bursary so it may be useful to use a personal email address. This is for authroisation purposes for the finance team.**

**When do I receive my Bursary?**

Once an application for Bursary has been received and approved, applicants will be issued a contract for electronic signature to return to NES.

**Note: Applicants will receive a contract for signature approximately 4 weeks before enrolment onto programme**.

Providing you have fully completed the application form and Bursary contract then

NES will start processing the payments following confirmation from the university the students who are in attendance for each year group. Payment of the Bursary will be made via two instalments each of £2000 by BACS Direct Credit. Payments will be made approximately 4-6 weeks after matriculation date for the first payment and approximately 4 weeks after term commencement date for the second payment. Due to a number of unpredictable factors around this process we cannot provide an exact payment date.

If any unforeseen circumstances arise which may result in the delay of Bursary payments, NES will communicate this to applicants as soon as possible.

**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. Taking up the Bursary may affect your eligibility for university hardship funds, you should discuss with the relevant University student finance team.

**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 over the entirety of the ScotGEM MBChB is £16,000.

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

Failure to be awarded an MBChB (graduation from course) means that you will no longer be complying with one of the conditions upon which the Bursary was awarded and you will be required to repay to Scottish Ministers the full amount of the Bursary received. NES 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. See repayment terms above.

**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 within 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 should begin within 12 months of graduation. For statutory leave occurring during this time (includes absences due to long term illness, maternity, paternity, or adoption leave), the duration of employment will be adjusted so that “the clock” is stopped during the period of absence.

**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 completed. If you did not complete any of the return of service period, then you will have to repay the entire Bursary you received throughout the degree. NES will arrange repayment terms on an individual basis and while NES may not require you to repay the whole amount in a lump sum you will have to begin repayment within 3 months. See repayment terms above.

**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 your first choice is a Scottish Foundation Priority Placement, then your second choice should be Foundation Programme Scotland.

**What if I apply for Foundation training in Scotland and don’t get in?**

If a student applies to Scottish Foundation School as their first choice and does not get accepted, they will not be required to repay two years of the Bursary.

**Can I apply to any Specialty?**

Yes, any Specialty offered in Scotland

**After Foundation training what if I apply to specialty training in Scotland and don’t get accepted?**

There is no repayment obligation as long as the student applies for Foundation training in Scotland (first choice) and Specialty training in Scotland.

**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 special circumstances. Examples would include long term illness, maternity leave and other forms of statutory leave etc. NES will consider every case on its own merits. Returning to full time Higher Education part way through your return of service period, will not usually be considered a special circumstance.

Details of the special circumstances process can be found [here.](https://www.scotlanddeanery.nhs.scot/trainer-information/scottish-graduate-entry-medicine-scotgem/)

**What if an individual defaults on repayment?**

NES has standard processes in place to recoup unpaid money. NES will provide details to Scottish Government on any defaulted payments, and we may notify the regulatory body.

**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.

**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