

Social Work Students - 2023 entry

This leaflet gives an overview of funding available for full-time undergraduate (BA) and postgraduate (MA and PGDip) students studying Social Work at Middlesex University, starting in 2023.

Can you tell me what financial support is available for undergraduates?

If you are studying on a full-time undergraduate course, you can apply to Student Finance England (SFE) for funding. This includes a Tuition Fee Loan, Maintenance Loan, Childcare Grant, Parents Learning Allowance, Adult Dependent Allowance and the Disabled Student Allowances. See Welfare Guide: New Full Time Students and Funding.

You can apply online or download the forms via the following link: www.gov.uk/student-finance or telephone 0300 100 0607

I already have a degree. Will I still be entitled to a student loan from Student Finance England (SFE) if I am on the BA course?

Yes. Eligible undergraduate social work students can receive a maintenance loan even if you already hold a degree or equivalent qualification. However, you will **not** be eligible for fee support.

Note: Students on the postgraduate (MA and PGDip) Social Work programme are **not** eligible for an undergraduate student loan.

Is there any other funding available for BA Social Work?

You may be able to get a bursary from NHSBSA in your second and third year of study but not in your first year. This bursary is non income-assessed, which means that earnings, savings and other sources of income are not taken into consideration. It is available for a maximum of two years.

How much bursary can I expect in my second and third year (BA)?

The NHS Student Bursary Unit will offer some students a grant of up to £5,262.50 per year, if you are studying at a London Institution such as Middlesex. The number of grants available will be capped and so not all students will receive a grant even if you meet the eligibility criteria. If you receive a bursary you can also apply to SFE for a loan for your tuition fees and maintenance or living costs, as mentioned above. Undergraduate students who are not allocated a bursary may be eligible for a placement travel allowance of £862.50.

What eligibility criteria should I meet?

You must meet all of the following criteria:

- The residency criteria - if you receive a financial notification from SFE this means you have met the residency criteria for a bursary.
- You are entering or already studying on a social work course that has been approved by the General Social Care Council (GSCC).
Note: All Middlesex University courses have been approved.
- You are studying on a college-based course and you are not receiving a retainer or funding from a social care employer or any publicly funded body for any part of the course.
- You must not hold a higher education social work qualification, including the Diploma in Social Work (DipSW).

What about employment-based courses?

You are not eligible for a bursary if you are studying on an employment-based course, regardless of whether your social care employer is supporting you or not.

What funding is available on postgraduate courses?

There is a bursary for **some** students studying on the MA and PGDip courses. You must also meet the same eligibility criteria described for undergraduates.

Note that the bursary unit have capped the number of bursaries available for postgraduate students and so there is **no** guarantee that all eligible students will be offered this funding.

The bursary consists of a non income-assessed basic grant of up to £3,762.50 per academic year at a London institution. There is also an additional income-assessed element to the bursary of up to £4,201 per year, allowances for adult dependants of up to £2,757 per year, a parent learning allowance of up to £1,573 per year and help towards childcare costs.

In addition, for students in receipt of the bursary the NHS will also pay £4,052 towards your tuition fees per academic year. This amount is pro rated for the additional months.

The above are annual amounts, as the MA course is 17 months and the PGDip is 14 months this amount is pro-rata for the second year. You will need to re-apply to the NHS for the additional months.

In nearly all cases students are better off with NHS Bursary rather than SFE PGL, if this is an option.

Note: In 2023/24 home students commencing the MA Social Work course will be charged Tuition Fees of £11,500 for the entire course. Home students commencing the PGDip Social Work course will be charged Tuition Fees of £9,200 for the entire course. You will be expected to make up the difference in cost yourself.

For information on paying in instalments contact Fees and Finance Team: <https://unihelp.mdx.ac.uk/enquiry/>

In some circumstances the means tested elements of the bursary can be paid for postgraduate students who, for whatever reason, have to repeat parts of their course. Remember financial awards are always dependant on individual circumstances.

Postgraduate students who are not allocated a capped bursary are still eligible to claim placement travel costs of up to £862.50 per year, via the NHS Bursary system.

MA students who are **NOT** in receipt of an NHS Bursary maybe eligible for a Postgraduate Loan from SFE. You are not able to have receive both types of funding.

PGDip Student are **NOT** eligible for any SFE Postgraduate Loan.

See the Welfare Advice Guide: **Postgraduate Master's Funding** at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

When will my bursary be paid?

Your bursary is usually paid in 3 instalments in your first year. One after enrolling one in January and one in April.

Is there any help available for disabled students or those with a Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD?)

Yes. If you are an undergraduate student and you have a disability or specific learning difficulty such as dyslexia you may be able to claim Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) from Student Finance England. Postgraduate students can claim DSA from the NHS if you are in receipt of a bursary and from SFE if you do not get a bursary.

See Welfare Guide: Disability and Dyslexia Support. Contact the Disability Support Centre at the Hendon Campus for more information.

Where do I apply?

You can find more information about both undergraduate and postgraduate courses and funding at <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students> You can also download application forms and you will find answers to many frequently asked questions there.

Contact Student Finance England. Visit www.gov.uk/contact-student-finance-england

Contact NHS Student Bursaries. Visit <http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students>

Further details can be found here: www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/social-work-students/social-work-bursary-postgraduate-students

As the course lasts longer than one academic year. You will need to re-apply for your pro-rata funding from the NHS the remaining months in 2024/25.

Any questions?

Contact the Middlesex University Student Welfare Advice Team on 020 8411 3008 between 11am - 1pm and 2pm - 4pm Mon to Fri, or submit an enquiry at <https://unihub.mdx.ac.uk/support/unihelp> (use the subject Student Welfare Advice in the enquiry) or make an appointment at <http://wgfp-prrw02.mdx.ac.uk:8001/Appointment/WebsiteStudentAppointment.aspx>

You can access all of our other Welfare Advice Guides at: unihub.mdx.ac.uk/welfare-guides

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October 2023