**Terms and Conditions**

**for South West Regional Dental Bursaries**

**for first year students entering Dental Postgraduate studies in 2025/26**

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2. **Scope**

These guidelines apply to the NHS England South West Postgraduate Financial Bursaries framework for new first year students taking up a place of study in 2025/6 at Bristol University.

The courses include:

Pg Cert in Oral Surgery Bristol University

Pg Cert in Dental Conscious Sedation and Anxiety Mgmnt Bristol University

MSc Periodontology Bristol University

These guidelines do not cover financial support made under government loan or grant frameworks.

1. **Terminology and definitions**

The bursary of £4,000 is intended as a non-repayable cash award on meeting certain conditions. It is designed to help towards your course related costs during your studies. It will be paid to your Education Institution as part of your course fees.

1. **Eligibility**

3.1 This is a non-repayable bursary available to you if you are working as an NHS dentist in the South West region and fulfil the criteria set out by the Managed Clinical Networks (MCNs) in NHS England South West. It is designed to help towards your course related costs during your studies.

3.2 It will be paid to Bristol University as part of your course fees.

3.3 The bursary awards have specific eligibility criteria which are set out in this document. Bursaries identified in this document are available to identified dentists who meet the specified eligibility criteria for each funding award.

Bursary funding for year 2 to Diploma level will be considered, but individuals would have to reapply for the second year.

3.4 Applications from those currently working in NHS primary care services will be given priority over applicants working in secondary care. Priority will also be given to dentists working within established Dental Foundation Training practices.

3.5 Individuals who are working in NHS trusts providing NHS services as speciality dentists, etc, already have opportunity to access mentorship, development and support within their units, which is not available to those in either salaried dental services or general dental practice.

To be considered you need to meet the following criteria:

* be fully registered with the General Dental Council
* be suitable for acceptance according to the criteria of the University of Bristol
* be providing dental services under an NHS contract in the South West region
* be on NHS England South West region Performers List
* be able to display evidence of continuing clinical practice in the region post qualification (must be employed by an organisation/practice in the NHS England South West region footprint)
* write a report to the Postgraduate Deanery and MCN after completion of the course
* be registered for one of the above courses provided by the University of Bristol
1. **Applications Process**
* Applications for the bursary will be submitted using the 2025/26 application form
* The deadline for submission for bursary for the September intake is 30th June 2025
* The respective Managed Clinical Network (MCN) committee will review submitted applications for approval of bursary funding
* NHS England cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions in the information supplied to it and on which eligibility decisions are based
* NHS England’s decision on the interpretation of eligibility criteria is final and there is no right of appeal

Please note that applications for the postgraduate course need to be made separately, direct to the University of Bristol.

1. **Timeline and Conditions**

5.1 You cannot be considered for a bursary if you have not responded to invitations to apply for funding awards and submitted the appropriate evidence.

5.2 Awards cannot be claimed retrospectively.

1. **Withdrawal of Bursaries**

6.1 Bursaries may be withdrawn, or payment withheld, if:

* you no longer meet any specific course requirements, specific grade progression criteria
* you decide to withdraw (temporarily or permanently) from the educational initiative

6.2 Mitigation - if you withdraw (temporarily or permanently) from the educational initiative, or no longer meet the necessary course requirements, you must notify the University immediately. If you are in this situation and already in receipt of the bursary, you may be required to return the bursary in part or in its entirety.

6.3 Awards are allocated for 2025/26 entry only. If you defer or withdraw and restart, any award already offered will become void. If eligible, you will be considered for support the following year, but this will be subject to review by NHS England and any funding provision then in force.

1. **Funds from other Sources**

7.1 If you are awarded funds from other sources you cannot be considered for receipt of a bursary or scholarship.

1. **Disciplinary action and fraudulent applications**

8.1 NHS England reserves the right to withdraw an award from anyone who is found to have misled the University and NHS England about any aspect of their eligibility and to seek repayment of any monies already paid to them. In such cases the University and NHS England may seek to recover any money paid as a debt. This may include the county court (in which case it may also seek to recover additional sums such as interest, court fees and legal costs).

1. **Definitions The following definitions apply**:

9.1 Appeals Process –The MCN’s decision on the interpretation of eligibility criteria is usually regarded as final. You may make a complaint if you believe that you have not been considered for an award because of a procedural error, or you believe that there has been some other procedural problem with our allocating and awarding system. Complaints should be made to the MCN. You must comply with all requests for additional information to establish your eligibility within the timeframes specified and you must submit any evidence requested by the stated deadlines.

1. **Use of data**

10.1 NHS England may use data in the Advancing Dental Care Programme. Information you share with us with be subjected to GDPR.

1. **Acceptance**

11.1 By accepting the bursary you are agreeing to the above terms. However, if you would prefer any particular difficult circumstances to be kept entirely confidential or have any questions about this, please email the course directors of your University and the Postgraduate Dental Dean.

Name:

Signed:

Date: