



STUDENT NURSES

CONFUSION AROUND PLANNED PLACEMENTS

There had been some confusion between different parts of the system about whether student nurses could continue on their planned placements and whether they all necessarily had to be paid. This has now been clarified through a statement from the NMC, NHS employers, Hcpc & NHS higher education England. It stated that some areas may be able to continue with students on their normal planned placements but sets out that 'all healthcare students on placements of any length during the COVID-19 pandemic should be working under a remunerated contract of employment', like those on emergency placement arrangements.

First year students will generally be excluded from this arrangement. The contract should confer death in service cover through the opportunity to be in the NHS pension scheme while remuneration recognises the ongoing exceptional circumstances which may impact on the placement experience. If you have any concerns or queries regarding this then please do not hesitate to contact us.

STUDENT FINANCE FOR COVID-19

Payment bands If you've opted into the emergency arrangement, the expectation is that you'll be paid as follows;

- Students in the final 6 months of studies: NHS Agenda for Change Band 4 level.
- 2nd Year students and 3rd years not in final 6 months of studies: NHS Agenda for Change Band 3 level.

The Student Loans Company (SLC) have stated that the situation will 'not impact summer term maintenance payments to students or tuition fee payments to education providers. These payments will be made as normal. New and existing students in England and Wales can continue to apply for student finance and we will continue to process any applications that have been received as quickly as we can.' SLC confirm that students will receive their scheduled or next instalment of their maintenance loan at the planned start of their summer term, regardless of whether their university or provider has made alternative arrangements for teaching.

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BECOME MORE INVOLVED

We are always on the look out for UNISON Representatives & workplace contacts, if you are interested in becoming



more involved then email our Student Nurse lead, Rachael Johnson at R.johnson3@unison.co.uk for more info. Free training is provided & you will receive support from the region.



NURSING NETWORK 0800 0857 857

