

Placements - Overview

There are 3 different types of work placement. The amount of support available to the student depends on their situation and the type of placement.

(A) An unpaid work placement anywhere not covered the type B list below. Although these students are on an unpaid placement they will only receive tuition fees and the reduced sandwich rate of maintenance loan.

(B) An unpaid work placement in one of the following. Students on unpaid type B placements are entitled to full support. Evidence is required of unpaid type B placements before assessing for full support.

Unpaid Type B list

A hospital, Public Health Service Laboratory or with Clinical Commissioning group (see here for Medicine/Dentistry Students), a Special Health Authority, the National Health Service Commissioning Board, the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, the Health and Social Care Information Centre, Local Health Board, Health Board, Special Health Board or Health and Social Services Board, a Local Authority carrying out its duties relating to health, welfare or caring for children and young people, a voluntary organisation providing facilities or carrying out similar activities; a Local Authority acting in the exercise of public health functions, the prison or probation sector or after-care services; unpaid research in a UK or overseas institution, an unpaid placement in the Houses of Parliament

The evidence provided must confirm that the role they are undertaking on their placement meets the criteria for unpaid type B placements. The primary role of the placement must relate to one of the above categories.

(C) Paid work placement in the UK/Overseas.

Consideration also needs to be given to how long the placement lasts as students can attend part year placements:

**If a student is at their HEP for 10 weeks or more, they will usually be entitled to full support
If a student is at their HEP for 10 weeks or less they will usually be charged lower fees and receive reduced rate ML**

From 2014/15 new and continuing students who are on a placement year, either in the UK or abroad will be liable for 20% of the tuition fees for the placement year.

From DSA Guidance:-

<https://www.practitioners.sl.c.o.uk/media/1714/1920-sfe-dsa-new-final-v20.pdf>

1.18 The Equality Act and work placements

Work placements are included in the Equality Act 2010 which means that college and university staff must also take into account a person's disability when arranging work placements and liaise with the work placement providers to implement the support. This includes people who are on a work placement as part of a vocational training programme. A vocational training programme is likely to include most students who are undertaking a work placement as an integral part of a further or higher education course. The providers of work placements are now required to ensure that they do not have discriminatory practices and also to make reasonable adjustments for disabled people on a work placement. The length of the work placement may be a factor when determining whether an adjustment is reasonable.

2.10.2 Sandwich courses and work placements

Students on part-year paid or unpaid placements where the periods of full-time study in the academic year are 10 weeks or more in aggregate are potentially eligible for DSAs. For example,

DSAs could pay for additional disability related travel costs to and from the institution using the travel allowance.

When a student is going on a work placement as part of their course, the DSAs study needs assessment should take this into account and, for example, consider the portability of equipment if students need to take it with them on the placement. The institution and the provider of the work placement should consider what reasonable adjustments are required to support the student during their work placement. Some courses already provide separate funding towards costs e.g. social work courses may attract a bursary towards travel costs.

Under regulation 38(6) students are not eligible for grants for living and other costs, including DSAs, in any academic year of a sandwich course where the periods of full-time study are in aggregate less than 10 weeks (unless the period of work experience is an unpaid placement of a type specified in regulation 38(7)). Students who do not qualify for grants for living and other costs under regulation 38(6) are eligible for a reduced rate maintenance loan which is not subject to income assessment (regulation 80(1)(b) & 80(2)(b)).

Under regulation 38(7) students undertaking certain types of unpaid work experience in the public or voluntary sectors are potentially eligible for grants for living and other costs, including DSAs (even where the periods of full-time study in the academic year are less than 10 weeks in aggregate)

<https://www.heinfo.slc.co.uk/media/9866/courses-management-service-guidance.pdf>

Study Abroad

If a student has indicated that they are studying abroad in Section 4 – Course, the financial support available may change for that academic year. They may be eligible for the abroad rate of maintenance loan and could potentially apply for a travel grant.

From 2014/15 new and continuing students who are studying abroad as part of their course but are not part of the ERASMUS scheme will be liable for 15% of the tuition fees for the year abroad.

Travel Grant

Must be studying abroad, part of the Erasmus scheme, attending a placement at an overseas HEP or attending a clinical placement as an integral part of a medicine/dentistry course (excluding NHS Bursary years)

- Overseas study must be for at least 50% of the academic quarter (term)
- The first £303 of travel costs are to be met by the Student
- There is a threshold of £39796; if the household income is above this figure a contribution may be deducted from any travel grant payable
- Any costs above £303 are reimbursed pound for pound after household contribution is deducted
- Mileage is paid at a rate of 24p per mile for the 18/19 AY.
- The cost of mandatory visas, medical tests, recommended vaccinations and medical insurance are also not subject to a disregard. They should be reimbursed in full.