

Quarry House  
Quarry Hill  
Leeds LS2 7UE

Ian Martin  
Chairman of Council  
British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons  
The Royal College of Surgeons of England  
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
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17 August 2012

Dear Mr Martin

I am writing to inform you of the tuition funding arrangements for medical and dental students starting their course in academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

Andrew Lansley, the Secretary of State for Health has agreed with David Willetts, the Minister of State for Universities and Science that the interim funding arrangements, agreed for 2012/13 will roll forward for a further two academic years.

This means that first time students starting on the five or six year under-graduate programme in academic years 2013/14 and 2014/15 will continue to have their fees paid through the NHS Bursary in years five and six of the course.

Graduate entry students starting on the accelerated four-year programme in academic 2013/14 and 2014/15 will have to self fund the first £3,465 towards their tuition costs in year one of the course. From year two of the course the NHS Bursary will pay £3,465 towards their tuition. In all years of the graduate programme, a loan of up to £5,535 will be available from Student Finance England to cover the difference between £3,465 and the tuition charges of their universities up to a maximum charge of £9,000. In 2014/15, the level of tuition cost met by the student in the first year and by the NHS Bursary from year two may have to increase to cover any inflationary rise in tuition.

The funding arrangements I have described above continue to be interim arrangements and apply only to students starting their courses in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Both the Department for Business Innovation and Skills and the Department of Health are firmly committed to delivering a long-term solution to student support from 2015/16.

You wrote to me last year and raised an issue regarding funding for students studying in oral and maxillofacial surgery who opt to undertake the standard undergraduate course as their second degree. As students usually negotiate mediated entry into a higher year on this course, you have worked with several universities to have this shortened version of the 5/6 year undergraduate programme to be recognised as "graduate-entry" for the purposes of funding, and asked if there could be a central resolution. In light of this Jamie Rentoul, Director of Workforce Development at the Department of Health has written to the Medical

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and Dental Schools Councils and asked that they discuss this with the schools to ensure a consistent approach nationally for the funding of oral and maxillofacial surgery students.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Aartse-Tuyn  
Policy Manager  
Education Funding  
Department of Health