

PSD Scotland: 2026 Healthcare Science Training Award Bursary **Applicant Guidance**

Before starting your application for our bursary, please make sure:

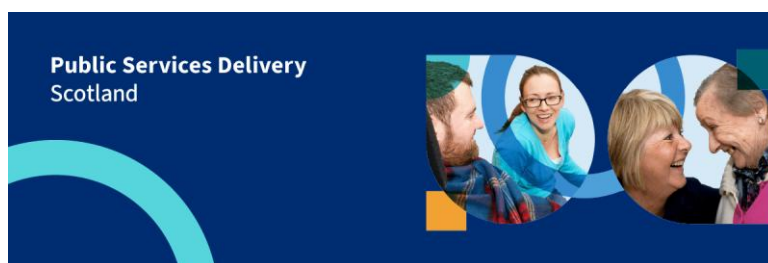
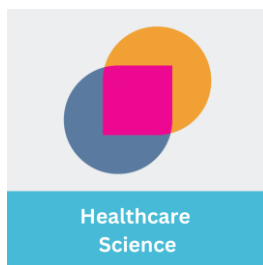
- You meet all the criteria for this bursary (see Appendix 1), otherwise you will not be able to complete the application form.
- You have the full details of your intended programme, qualification or examination, which you are applying to cover the cost of.
- You have your line manager's and supervisor's details (name, job title & email) and agreement for you to undertake the proposed activity (they will be contacted after you submit your application to confirm this).

Applications are submitted through a dedicated [MS Forms](#), which will guide you step-by-step through the application process.

PLEASE NOTE: The MS Forms cannot be saved and returned to later. Ensure you are ready to complete your application prior to starting. We recommend using a Word document to prepare answers, then you can copy your answers into the MS Forms.

The first part (Sections 1-5, obtaining general details) will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. The time to complete the final scored part (Section 6) will vary between individuals, see Appendix 2 for the scoring criteria and further guidance regarding what you should and shouldn't include in your application. Please spend time beforehand to consider your answers to the following questions exploring the impact of the intended programme, qualification or examination:

1. What are your reasons for pursuing this intended academic programme, professional qualification or professional examination?
2. How does this benefit you personally in terms of your career development?
3. How does this benefit your service/department and service users?
4. Does completing this align to any national Healthcare Science strategies within Scotland? (e.g. Healthcare science: strategic approach)



TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

This application is for a contribution of up to £4,000, by PSD Scotland, for an in-service NHS Scotland Healthcare Scientist (Band 2-9) to undertake an academic programme, professional qualification or examination to assist in further development.

You CANNOT apply for this award fund if you are:

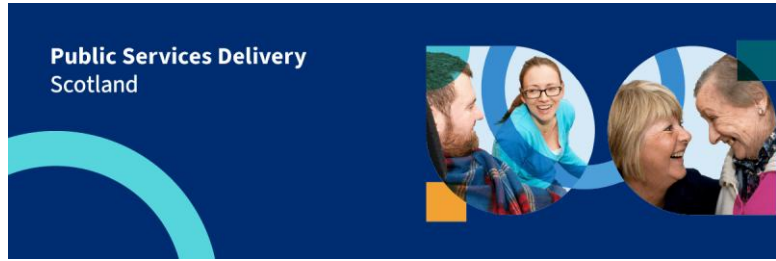
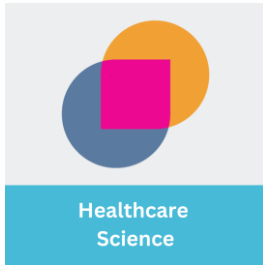
- not employed on a permanent NHS Scotland contract (not eligible if employed on a fixed-term, temporary or honorary contract)
- currently on a PSD Scotland funded training post (e.g. STP/STP equivalence/HSST equivalence)
- a previously successful applicant with 3 or more such bursary awards
- applying for funds to undertake research not associated with an academic programme or qualification
- applying for funds to assist with equivalence application (ACS, AHCS or IBMS)
- applying for a degree assessment (IBMS or UKENIC)
- applying for funds to attend conferences

Please note this application is for funding for one year only, and must be claimed in full within the 2026/27 financial year. If funding is required beyond this duration then further funding must be re-applied for in subsequent bursaries and is not guaranteed.

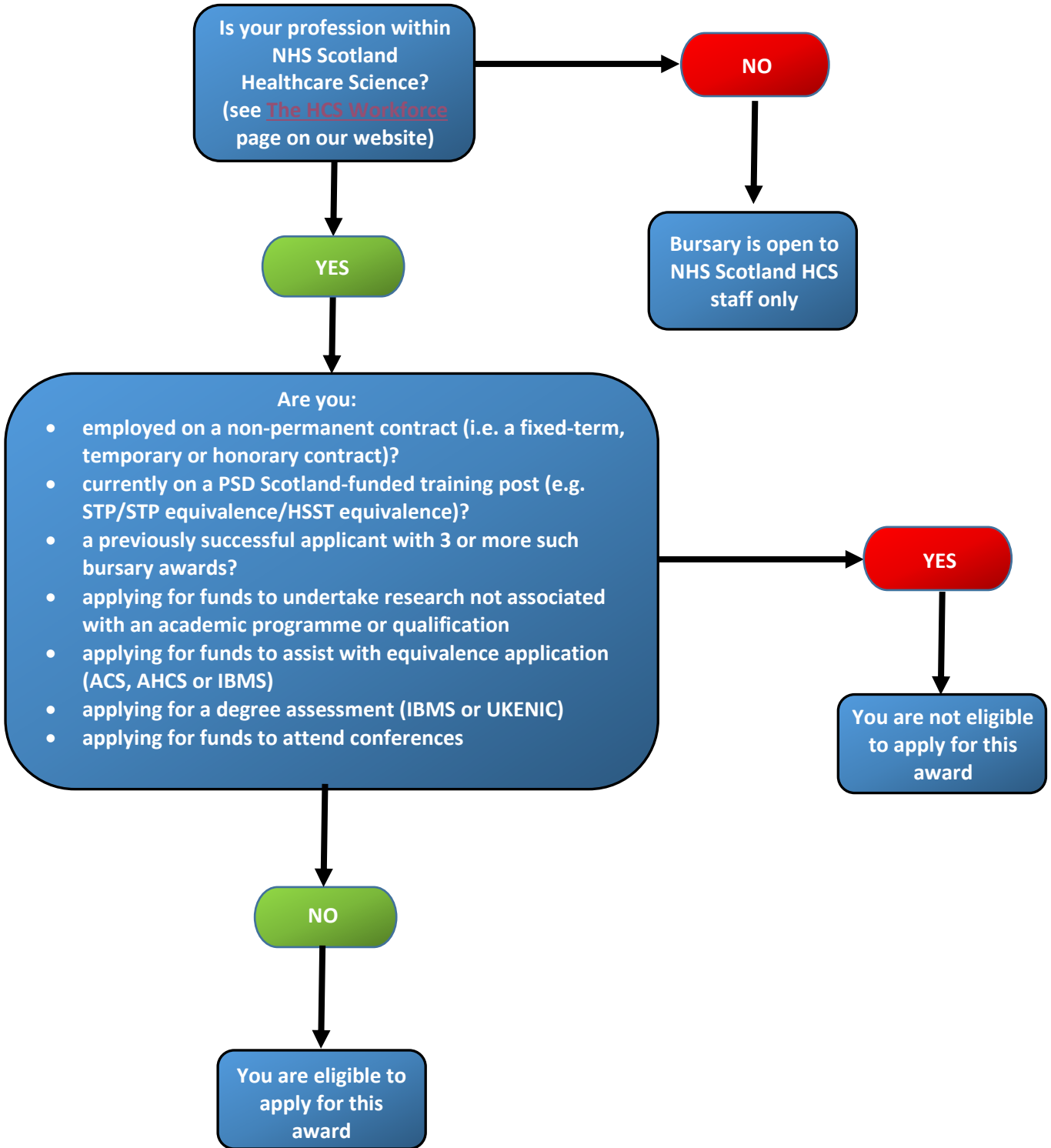
If successful, the applicant and department must comply with our Quality Assurance processes. Initially, this will involve completing an [MS Form to obtain a National Training Number \(NTN\)](#). All training centres hosting a bursary holder would be expected to be accredited through our [Centre Accreditation process](#). Successful applicants will also be asked (along with their supervisor) to complete both an [Annual Review of Competency Progression \(ARCP\)](#) for the duration of their chosen programme/qualification/examination, and an [Exit Survey](#) on completion, or withdrawal from programme. Further details can be found on our website: <https://hcstraining.nhs.scot/quality-assurance/>.

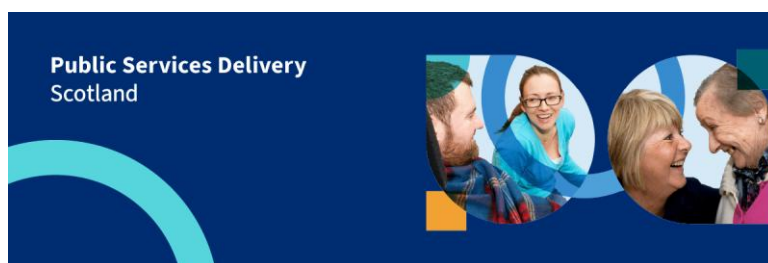
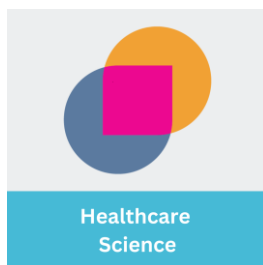
PLEASE NOTE: Applications are open from Monday 11th May and will close on Friday 5th June at 5pm.

If you have any queries regarding this bursary or require any assistance, please contact us at HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk.



Appendix 1 – Eligibility Criteria





Appendix 2 – Scoring Criteria and Guidance

Assessors will score the scored questions in Section 6 using the following scale:

- 0 – Applicant has not made no case to address the question
- 1 – Applicant has made a weak case in addressing the question
- 2 – Applicant has made a reasonable case in addressing the question, with some evidence that it will provide benefit
- 3 – Applicant has made a strong case in addressing the question, with a clear realistic plan that demonstrates clear benefit

Consider the impact of the intended programme, qualification or examination you have chosen before answering the questions in the application. Tell us why undertaking this activity will impact your future, your service/department, and Healthcare Science more widely, to justify the financial award towards it.

Do

- Write your own application
- Be as concise as possible, while answering the questions
- Give us an insight into your personal motivations
- Explain how it will benefit you, your service/department and service users
- Tell us what you are going to do if you are successful

Don't

- Include your CV or elements of a job description
- List activities which are just a requirement of your current job role
- Include any learning or development which falls within mandatory training
- Detail the content of your intended programme, qualification or examination
- Share or recycle text from others or previous applications

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Although we cannot prevent applicants using content that has been generated or assisted by artificial intelligence (AI), we strongly discourage it as it could diminish their chance of success. AI-generated content may lack specificity and fail to address the key questions in Section 6. Conveying your intentions, your reasons for applying, and how it will benefit you personally in your own words is essential. You should clearly disclose where any content has been generated or assisted by AI.