



Student  
Loans Company

# NHS STUDENT BURSARIES

ANDRENA LAUDER

HEAD OF NHS BURSARIES

9 MARCH 2011

# NHS Student Bursaries – what we do

We ensure the prompt and accurate assessment, review and payment of bursaries to eligible NHS commissioned students on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health.

- This is done via the NHS Bursary Scheme which sets out:
  - The general eligibility criteria for receiving support;
  - The type and amount of bursary and other allowances available; *and*
  - The process for calculating the level of support individuals can receive.

PART 1

# MODERNISATION OF THE NHS BURSARY APPLICATION PROCESS

# 1.Modernisation of the NHS Bursary Application Process

For over 12 months, a project has been in flight to develop a new system for NHS Student Bursaries

- Representatives from NHS Student Bursaries held workshops to scope requirements for the new system using feedback from stakeholders including HEI's, Students, NHS Counter Fraud and Audit
- Current processes & procedures analysed and streamlined
- Several stages of testing have followed from late April 2010
- In the most recent test cycle, students and HEI admin representatives also spent time in the testing environment.

# New System - Changes to our Processes

- New online evidence based application – the information a student supplies on their application must be supported by the relevant documentation
- All bursary payments will be made to the students' bank account
- Students must maintain a UK address and UK bank account in order to receive payment
- All students must reapply for each academic year (including non income-assessed)

# Advantages of the New Application Process (1)

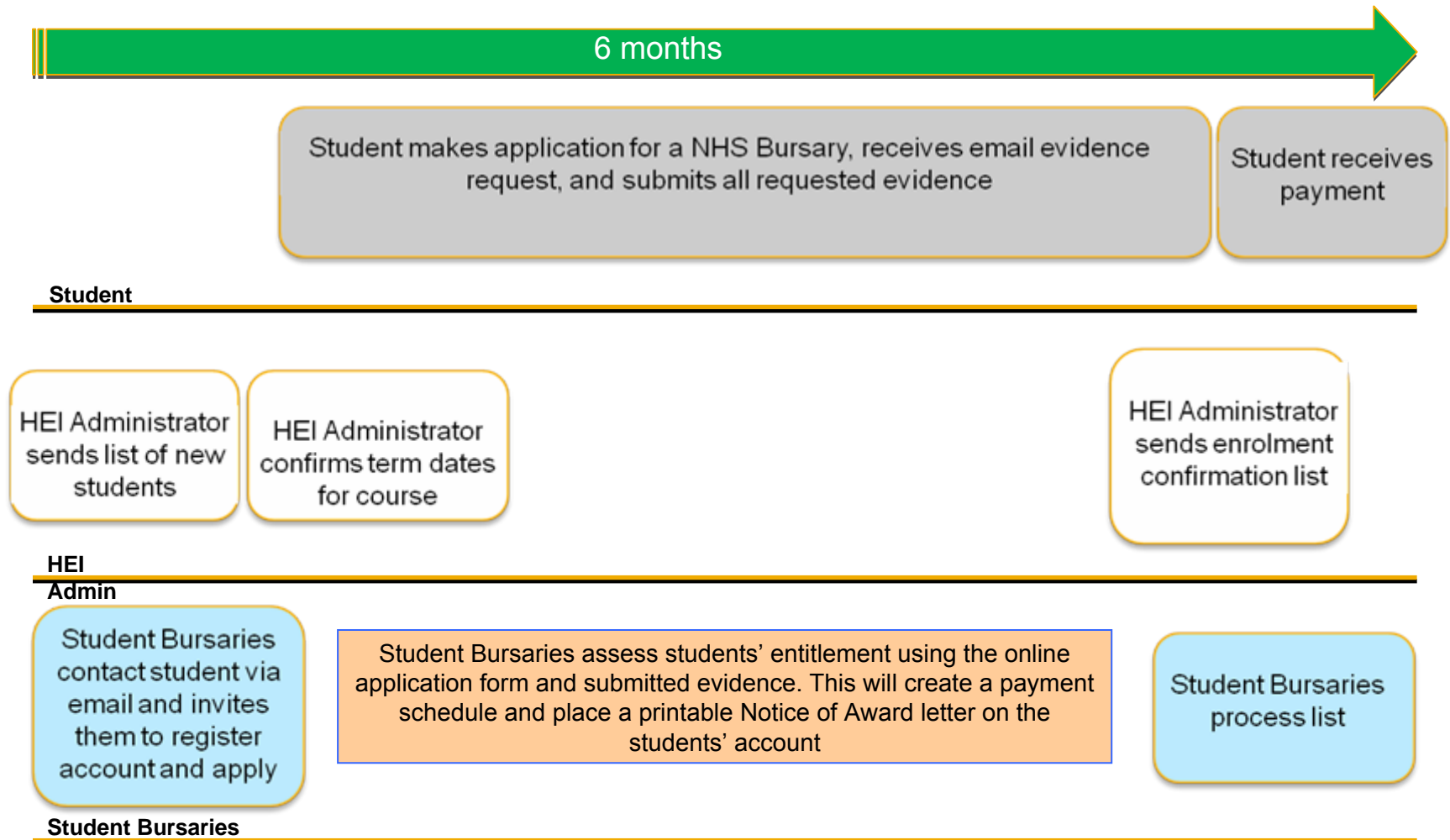
*The new system will allow students to;*

- Create their NHS Student Bursary account online
- Receive information via email about the required evidence they are required to submit in support of their application
- View their payment schedule after assessment has been completed
- Print a copy of their Notification of Award letter
- Inform us directly about any change in circumstances
- Change the email address and password associated with their account
- Change bank account details.

# Advantages of the New Application Process (2)

- Mandatory fields & hint text to reduce incomplete applications
- Online account with functionality to change information such as password, email address, and bank details
- Access information which will enable a student to answer their own query
- Greater transparency of process
- Increase in pro-active communication
- Increased use of email

# Application Process Cycle



# New Application process - Integration with Higher Education Institutions

- The 10 English Strategic Health Authorities (SHA) contract the number of NHS Bursary funded places per course with each English HEI.
- NHS Student Bursaries is responsible for assessing and paying the basic living allowance and additional allowances and charges each SHA according to the actual cost of Bursary payments for the students they are contractually responsible for.
- The SHA's pay the total cost of tuition & exam fees directly to the HEI.
- HEI's are required to notify NHS Student Bursaries of every student to whom they offer a place on a relevant course so that NHS Student Bursaries can invite the student to make an application at a time in the process cycle which suits us.

Part 2

# NHS BURSARY FUNDING

# Overview

- We...
  - ✓ Fund 92,000 students training at 200 plus Universities.
  - ✓ Pay in excess of £530 million p.a. in bursaries and allowances.
  - ✓ Process in excess of 38,000 new bursary applications each year
  - ✓ Process approximately 20,000 continuing AHP awards each year
  - ✓ Process approximately 10,000 continuing DipHE awards where means-tested additional allowances are payable
  - ✓ Process and pay in excess of 8,000 Personal Tuition Fee contributions for Medical & Dental students.

# Types of NHS Bursary Funded Student

- There are three main groups of eligible students. The NHS Bursary Scheme sets different eligibility criteria and types & levels of support for each of these groups.

Type	Courses
1. Diploma Level Students	DipHE Nursing and Operating Department Practitioners
2. Allied Healthcare Professionals	e.g. Physiotherapy, Radiography, Audiology, Occupational Therapy
3. Medical and Dental Students	5/6 year Undergraduate courses 3/4 year Graduate-entry courses

# Types of NHS Bursary basic allowance

Type	Available to students on:	Information
Income-Assessed	Nursing, Midwifery, AHP and Medical and Dental courses	The whole of the basic maintenance grant and all additional allowances (except Disabled Students Allowance), are subject to income-assessment
Non-income assessed	Nursing and Operating Department Practitioner courses	Provides a flat-rate basic maintenance grant where no account is taken of the student's income or that of his or her family. ( However, certain <u>additional</u> allowances are income assessed in full)

# Additional Allowances

- Dependants Allowance
- Childcare Allowance
- Parent Learning Allowance
- Practice Placement Travel and Accommodation expenses
- Disabled Students Allowance
- Maternity payments

# Payment

*Bursaries are – and will continue to be paid in monthly instalments.*

- The first instalment, for new students, is for two months' worth of bursary, paid directly into the students bank account.
- NHS Student Bursaries are required to make this initial payment within 10 working days of receiving enrolment confirmation from HEI's (assuming the student has made an application)
- Remaining payments are paid by Bank Automated Credit Scheme (BACS) on the third Friday of each month.

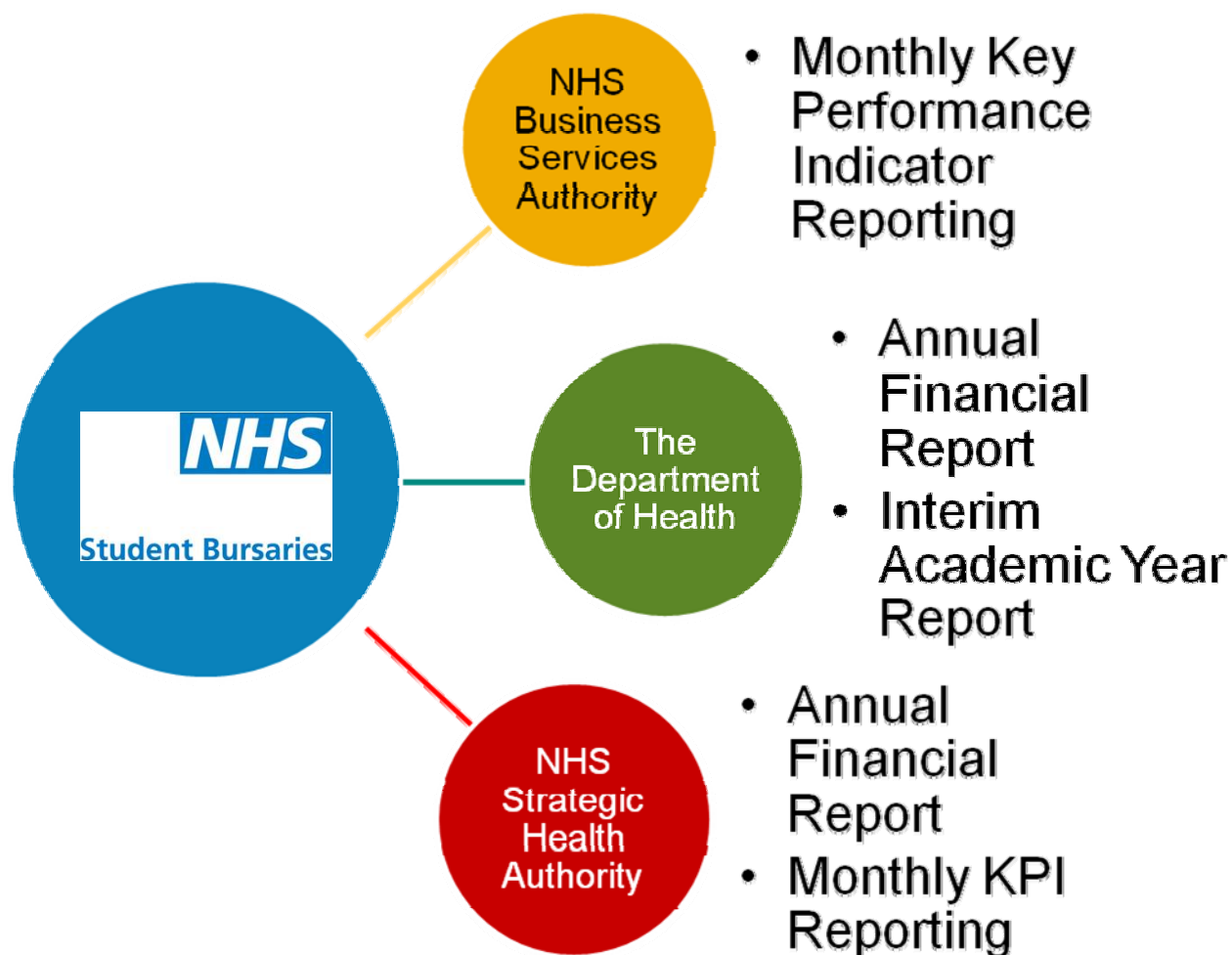
Part 3

# DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

# Data Collection

- The data we use to process NHS Bursaries comes from:
  - The information students input during the online application process
  - The additional documentation (I.D, financial information, etc) they will provide as part of this process
- The types of data gathered will be:
  - Personal (from the application forms)
  - Financial
  - Equality and Diversity-related
  - Attendance and course-related

# Reporting







Student  
Loans Company

Andrena Lauder

Head of NHS Student Bursaries

✉ Andrena.Lauder@PPA.NHS.UK

☎ 01253 444785 / 0191 203 5527

🌐 [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/Students)