

NHS Learning Support Fund

Travel & Dual Accommodation Expenses (TDAE) – Student Q&A Guide

1. What is TDAE?

TDAE is financial support that reimburses eligible healthcare students for extra costs incurred while attending practice placements.

Students who are eligible for the NHS Learning Support Fund are entitled to have some of the costs arising from attendance on practice placements reimbursed.

You can claim only when placement travel costs exceed your normal daily travel costs to university.

2. Who can claim NHS Learning Support Fund TDAE?

The NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF) provides additional funding for eligible healthcare students. To apply, you need to be on one of the following pre-registration undergraduate or postgraduate courses:

- dental therapy or dental hygiene (level 5 and 6 courses)
- dietetics
- midwifery
- nursing (adult, child, mental health, learning disability, joint nursing, or social work)
- occupational therapy
- operating department practitioner
- orthoptics
- orthotics and prosthetics
- paramedics (except DipHE and FD courses)
- physiotherapy
- podiatry or chiropody
- radiography (diagnostic and therapeutic)
- speech and language therapy

Foundation years are not eligible for NHS LSF.

You must be eligible for and in receipt of the NHS Learning Support Fund (NHS LSF).

From 2025/26, pharmacy and pre-registration healthcare science students can claim TDAE (but not other LSF elements).

Commented [KG1]: @Esther Woollam - would it be helpful to add which professions can claim here?

3. How do I know if I can claim travel costs?

You can claim excess costs if your daily return travel costs to placement costs more than your daily return travel costs to university.

4. What travel methods are covered?

You can claim for:

- Public transport (actual cost)
- Your own vehicle (42p per mile)
- Pedal cycle (30p per mile)
- Parking, tolls, ferries (actual cost) receipt for the date being claimed for must be uploaded as evidence

5. Can I claim taxi fares?

No taxi costs will not be reimbursed.

If Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) authorises taxi use, you can claim the public transport equivalent, not the taxi fare.

Commented [KG2]: @Esther Woollam - what does this stand for?

6. What are congestion or clean-air zone charges?

If your usual route to university or placement includes unavoidable charges, you can claim them.

7. Can I claim for passenger miles?

This system does not reimburse for passenger miles.

8. What is dual accommodation?

Dual accommodation applies when you must stay in temporary accommodation near placement because daily travel from your term-time address is not practical.

You must be paying for both:

- your normal term-time accommodation
- your temporary placement accommodation

You must have incurred costs for both your normal term time accommodation and the temporary placement accommodation.

9. How much can I claim for accommodation?

Commercial accommodation: up to £82.50 per night

Non-commercial accommodation: up to £37.50 per night

Airbnb is usually treated as commercial, unless booked informally offline.

10. What evidence do I need for accommodation claims?

You must provide a receipt showing:

- your name
- address of accommodation
- total cost
- dates of stay
- if you shared with another student, you will need to provide their full name and Student Support Reference Number (SSRN)

If non-commercial, you must also provide a bank statement showing payment or cash withdrawal.

Commented [KG3]: @Esther Woollam - what does this mean?

11. Can I stay with parents for placement?

If you stay with parents only for placement, you cannot claim accommodation costs. You can claim daily travel if it exceeds your normal university travel.

12. Can I claim weekly travel while in temporary accommodation?

Yes — you can claim:

- One weekly return journey between term-time home and temporary accommodation

- Daily travel between temporary accommodation and placement (if more than normal university travel)

13. What can I claim for overseas placements?

You can claim:

- Accommodation (same nightly rates as UK)
- Travel within UK or host country
- Insurance
- Medical tests & vaccinations
- Visa fees

You cannot claim:

- Airfare to/from host country
- Placement arrangement fees
- Food, tips, phone calls
- DBS / Police Checks

14. How do I submit a TDAE claim?

You must:

1. Register for an NHS LSF account
2. Apply for the Training Grant (even if you don't want the grant)
3. Submit your TDAE claim online
4. Submit within six months of placement end date

15. Can I submit multiple claims during a long placement?

Yes — you can submit smaller, more frequent claims.

16. Who approves my claim?

Your claim will be reviewed by University staff to ensure it has been completed accurately and in accordance with NHS Bursary guidelines. If any sections are

incomplete or it has been completed incorrectly, it will be returned to you for amendment before it can be processed.

Please note that University staff are required to follow the procedures set out by NHS LSF when reviewing and authorising claims. Only once these checks have been completed can the claim be authorised and submitted to the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA) for assessment.

Student Checklist Before Submitting

- ✓ Complete **all** relevant sections of the form
- ✓ Attach **all** travel tickets and receipts
- ✓ Include accommodation evidence if claiming accommodation
- ✓ Include Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) award letter if claiming Public Transport Equivalent Cost (PTEC)
- ✓ Keep copies of everything submitted
- ✓ Submit within 6 months of placement end date

Commented [KG4]: @Esther Woollam - just acronyms what do they stand for?

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