

## **FAQs tailored to applicants on a Skilled Worker visa with “No Recourse to Public Funds” (NRPF)**

### **Important**

This information is provided for general guidance only. It is not legal advice. Immigration rules and eligibility criteria can change. You should always check the most up-to-date information on GOV.UK or seek advice from a qualified immigration adviser.

### ***What is Post-Registration Academic Study?***

These are modules or programmes offered through universities which provide academic credit points and/or a qualification. Education is delivered at academic level 6 which is undergraduate/degree level or an academic level 7 which is postgraduate/masters level. For more information on types of post-registration academic study, please click on the link below:

[Post-Registration Academic Study | Nursing and Midwifery Careers NI](#)

### **What will I consider before choosing Post-Registration Academic Study?**

When considering what Post-Registration Academic Study, the first step is to discuss your education plans with your line manager to link them to your personal development plan (PDP) and appraisal, using available resources to guide your choice. It is important to understand the essential academic criteria to undertake the programme, the programme commitment around academic study requirements and the expected clinical outcomes to be implemented in practice.

### **Can I apply for Post-Registration Academic Study if I am on a Skilled Worker visa with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF)?**

**Yes**, NRPF does not prevent you from studying, only access to state funding.

*However, eligibility to enrol, access funding, and undertake placements will depend on your immigration status and ability to meet course and visa requirements.*

NRPF means you are not eligible to access public funds, including government-funded student support such as NHS Learning Support Fund (LSF), maintenance loans, or other public bursaries.

You must be able to fund your tuition fees and living costs independently or apply for private funding options and scholarship grants. <https://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa>.

## What does “No Recourse to Public Funds” (NRPF) mean?

NRPF means your visa does not allow you to access UK public funds. This includes most welfare benefits and government-funded student support. You may live, work, and study in the UK, but you cannot claim funding classed as public funds. [This is UK immigration condition not a policy](#). GOV.UK

Please click on the link below for list of public funds:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds--2/public-funds>

## Are there any funding options available despite NRPF?

### ➤ Option 1 Self-funding

You must be able to fund your tuition fees and living costs independently

### ➤ Option 2 Non-public funding options may include:

- Self-funding your studies
- Employer-sponsored funding

Some NHS Trusts or private employers offer funded training, study leave, or sponsorship. Employer funding is not usually classed as public funds.

### .University scholarships

Some universities offer scholarships for international students, not classed as public funds, availability and competition may vary i.e. [Jean Orr scholarship](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships/jean-orr-scholarship) <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/scholarships/jean-orr-scholarship> . Please seek University student support service and immigration adviser for guidance.

### . Private Scholarships/Fellowships:

**Commonwealth Scholarships:** Available to citizens from low and middle-income Commonwealth countries for Masters and PhD study.

**Specific Grants:** Organizations like Cara (Council for At-Risk Academics) provide funding for specific nationalities (e.g., Sudanese/South Sudanese). NRPF Network. <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/about-us/scholarships/>

### Trade unions

**Verification:** Always confirm with the funding provider that your specific visa status (with NRPF) is accepted.

### **Can I access UK student loans while on NRPF?**

No. UK government student loans and maintenance support are classed as public funds. With NRPF, you are generally not eligible until your immigration status changes.

Applicants on a Skilled Worker visa are generally classified as international students for fee purposes unless they meet specific residency and settlement criteria (e.g. Indefinite Leave to Remain).

Fee status is determined by each university in line with UK regulations.

### **Can I access student finance after getting Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR)?**

Yes. Once you obtain ILR:

- The NRPF condition is removed
- You may become eligible for student finance and NHS student support
- You must still meet residency requirements

### **Do I need to change my visa to study a full time and placement- intensive course?**

In most cases, yes.

MSc Nursing and Midwifery programmes are full-time and placement-intensive. A Skilled Worker visa is tied to your sponsored employment therefore most applicants will need to switch to a student visa before starting the programme. Due to timetable and intensive placements often will prevent you from continuing your sponsored role as required.

Switching to student visa may affect your skilled worker protection and dependant rights. You must seek regulated professional advice and discuss with HR prior to switching your visa type.

### **Can I remain employed while studying on a skilled worker visa?**

This depends on your visa type:

**Skilled Worker visa:** Study must not interfere with your sponsored role. You may opt to study part time without interfering with your sponsorship requirements.

You need to discuss with your employer and HR before commencing a full time, intensive-placement programme.

**Student visa:** You may work up to 20 hours per week during term time, subject to visa conditions

Due to the intensity of nursing and midwifery programmes, combining full-time study with employment can be challenging. You need to discuss with your employer and HR before commencing the programme.

### What should I do next?

- Speak to your employer about funded training or sponsorship options
  - Speak to your line manager or organisational Lead for Education
  - Contact universities directly about scholarships for international healthcare professionals
  - Plan long-term for Indefinite Leave to Remain
  - Seek professional immigration advice for personalised guidance
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### GOV.UK guidance and references

1. GOV.UK – *Public funds*: [Public funds \(accessible\) - GOV.UK](#)
2. GOV.UK – *No recourse to public funds (NRPF)*: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-funds>
3. GOV.UK – *Health and Care Worker visa*: <https://www.gov.uk/health-care-worker-visa>
4. GOV.UK – *Skilled Worker visa*: <https://www.gov.uk/skilled-worker-visa>
5. GOV.UK – *Indefinite Leave to Remain*: <https://www.gov.uk/indefinite-leave-to-remain>

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