



## Health Information

The National Health Service (NHS) is the health organization in the UK. They provide information on how to find a doctor, emergency services, family planning services and everything else you would need to know about health care in the UK.

Most of the information listed below is available on the website: [www.nhs.co.uk](http://www.nhs.co.uk), as well as information on how to register and find a dentist.

### Am I eligible for free Health care while completing my studies?

Primary Health Care: Any person living lawfully settled in the UK is considered a resident of the UK and is eligible for free primary health care services. It is recommended that upon arrival (in the first couple of weeks) that you register with your local General Practitioner (GP).

How to register with a local GP:

- Find out what doctor's are close to your permanent address in the UK.** You can obtain a list of GPs from your local Post Office, on the NHS website or by contacting your local Family Services Authority.
- Call the GP office and ask if you need an appointment to register as a new patient. Also confirm the documentation that you will need to bring with you (usually proof of address, passport and secondary proof of identity).
- Go into the GP office and fill out the application to register as a new patient. The practice may refuse an application on reasonable grounds only (for example, if you live outside of the practice area). A practice cannot refuse you as a patient on the grounds of gender, race, age, religion, social class, medical condition, appearance or sexual orientation.

The practice will notify you if you have been accepted as a new patient or not by post.

This does not necessarily mean that you are covered for everything that you might need to take care of your health (prescriptions have charges, etc) but you can ask at your GP what is covered (if in doubt ALWAYS ask!!!)

You can also refer to the Department of Health website: [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

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## **What about hospital treatment?**

Under the current regulations if you are attending a course of not less than six months then you are eligible for free NHS hospital treatment in England. This also applies to your spouse and children (if under the age of 16 or 19 if in further education).

If your course is substantially funded by the UK government (more than 35%), then you are eligible for hospital treatment regardless of the duration of your course.

If your course is less than six months and your country has bilateral healthcare agreements with the UK, then you are eligible for free hospital treatment that is needed promptly for conditions that arise only after the arrival in the UK.

You may be required to show your student visa or other documentation (at the discretion of whoever is treating you) for receiving treatment.

If you do not meet these requirements please see the Department of Health website (listed previously) to view other exceptions or consider purchasing Medical Insurance.

## **Free for everyone**

There are some health care services that are free for everyone that include treatment in only an Accident and Emergency Department or Walk in NHS services providing the same service (this excludes emergency treatment administered in other hospital departments), compulsory psychiatric treatment, certain infectious diseases (with exceptions) and certain family planning services. For further information regarding these services please see the NHS website.

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