

Funding Options for MSc Advanced Musculoskeletal Practice at City St George's

There are four main options to consider for funding:

- 1) **NHS England.** Every year around March, NHS England releases funding for eligible clinicians to undertake Masters training on accredited MSc Programmes. We are accredited, so you can apply for this funding. This can be for standalone modules, a PG-Cert, a PG-Dip, or a full MSc. To apply for this funding, you will need the support of your local leadership team and your Trust's Advanced Practice Lead. Together you will complete an application form for funding from your local NHS Faculty. Your local NHS faculty is based on the location of where you work, not the location of the University. For example, individuals who live in the South East of England who wish to study at with us at City St George's will apply to the [South East Faculty for Advancing Practice](#), individuals within London will apply for funding from the [London Faculty for Advancing Practice](#), etc.

FAQs:

- *Q: Do I need to have a band 8 role by the end of the course to be funded?*
A: Not in the eyes of NHS England. However, Advanced Practice leads in different organisations may not support your application for funding if it is not apparent that your service would benefit from your Advanced Practice development. This should be discussed on a case-by-case basis. Many band 7s are supported by their Advanced Practice leads if, for example, it is likely you will be applying for band 8 jobs before the end of the MSc.
- *Q: I'm a band 6, what about me?*
A: As above, discuss with your Advanced Practice lead. It is less common for band 6s to have the full MSc funded. However, you can still apply for funding to begin your MSc journey by completing the modules helpful to your role as a band 6 (usually the clinical modules e.g., Adv MSK 1, 2 or 3, or optional clinical

modules). You could apply for funding for standalone modules our 60 credit PG-Cert, or our 120 credit PG-Dip. This is called Enhanced Practice, where you work on developing some of the four pillars. You can then use this to contribute to a full MSc further in your career, lightening the burden for your future self.

- *Q: I work in private practice, or for a private company with an NHS contract.*

What about me?

A: Unfortunately, this is not supported by NHS England as your employing organisation is responsible for ensuring their workforce has the required capabilities for Advanced Practice roles. However, you may be eligible for one of the other options such as an Apprenticeship.

- 2) **Apprenticeships.** This is separate from the NHS, and may be used to fund your MSc. Every employer with a pay bill of over £3 million must pay into the apprenticeship levy. These employers can then use these funds to pay for apprenticeship training. However, this can also be used by smaller employers who don't pay into the levy. Instead, they pay 5% of the cost of the apprenticeship training (in this case, an MSc) and the government pays the rest. We have Apprenticeship places on our MSc Advanced Clinical Practice (Advanced MSK Practice) starting 2025/26. Email our apprenticeship team to find out more: apprenticeships@city.ac.uk.
- 3) **Employer funding.** Many clinicians manage to successfully fund their MSc by securing funding from their organisation from an internal training and development fund. This is separate to applying directly from NHS England and usually requires support from your local leadership team and approval from the signatories of the training and development fund. Funding available will vary across workplaces.
- 4) **Self-funding.** You can also opt to self-fund either through your own financial resources or with a [Postgraduate Master's Loan](#) from the government.