



HEALTH CARE IN THE UK

NEW TO THE UK JANUARY 2025

WHO IS ENTITLED TO FREE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE (NHS) CARE

Anyone in the UK on a visa who has paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (and is in the UK), if you have a valid visa or are waiting for an in time appeal

If you have not paid the Immigration Health Surcharge as part of your Visa Application, you may have rights as an EU national, but rules are complex see <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/healthcare-for-eu-and-efta-nationals-living-in-the-uk>

Reciprocal Health agreements may exist between some countries but are limited in scope and not to be relied upon in full. Most people should have a Student Visa and so have paid the immigration health surcharge

Though Primary Health care is normally free, secondary health care can be charged and very expensive. You must organise your own health insurance if you are not eligible for free healthcare in the UK. Don't forget about travel outside the UK!



YOU MUST REGISTER WITH A LOCAL DOCTOR (GP)

- GP stands for General Practitioner which is a local doctor
- GPs are the first point of contact for medical treatment
- You need to register with a GP surgery/practice or health centre near to where you live
- GPs will refer to specialist doctors and services for instance in hospitals
- The University has links with GPs near to the University Halls of Residences
- To find Local GPs See <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/find-a-gp> or www.nhs.uk

GPS WITH LINKS TO THE UNIVERSITY – SEE OUR WEBPAGE

(Google search University of Westminster doctor)

<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/student-wellbeing/registering-with-a-doctor>

Find a Doctor

If you are new to London, it is important that you register with a General Practitioner (GP) doctor as soon as possible, so that you have easy access to healthcare when you need it.

The University has taken the time to find the best GP practices for our students, taking into account location, patient satisfaction and CQC ratings (Care Quality Commission).

To register with one of the below GPs, select the surgery nearest to your accommodation, and find the registration instructions on the website. GP surgeries generally only accept new patients who live in a specified "catchment area", so do check this before trying to register.

Marylebone and Westend



Harrow



Wembley



Alexander Fleming, Hoxton





TO REGISTER WITH A GP

- Check the GP website to see how to register
- Most GPs have a good online registration presence.
- If not, you may be asked to download the registration form and submit it in person or via email
- You will be asked for proof of address and proof of identity and may need to show your BRP Card (if you are here on a Student Visa)

Find out more on the University website
<https://www.westminster.ac.uk/current-students/support-and-services/student-wellbeing/registering-with-a-doctor>



WHEN YOU HAVE REGISTERED

- Most GPs will only see you on the same day IF your condition is urgent. If not, you may need to wait a few days for your appointment. Most GPs provide phone appointments
- You usually need to phone early in the morning to get a same-day appointment or will be asked to register with an online system and make your appointment electronically.
- GPs can treat you for most medical conditions and will prescribe medication if you need it



WHEN YOU HAVE REGISTERED CONTINUED

- If the medication is available on the NHS, you will be charged £9.90 per item when you collect it from a pharmacy
- If you need regular medication, you may save money with a Prescription Payment Certificate £32.05 for 3 months for all prescription
- If the medication you usually take is not available through the NHS, you will need to pay the full cost for it
- If you need specialist treatment, your GP will refer you to a hospital. You cannot book directly with a specialist doctor



ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCIES

- For serious accidents and emergencies, dial 999 or 112 for an ambulance
- You can also make your own way to accident and emergency
- For urgent medical problems which are not life-threatening emergencies, dial 111. You will be able to speak to a trained medical adviser.
- In the University: dial 5555 from an internal telephone for first aid



DO YOU HAVE AN EHIC FROM AN EU COUNTRY – YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO AN IHS RE-IMBURSEMENT

- You may be entitled to a full or partial reimbursement of your IHS payment if:
- you're a full-time student in UK higher education
- your UK visa started on or after 1 January 2021
- you have a European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) issued from an EU country or Switzerland
- you do not work or do not intend to work in the UK

BE CAREFUL WHEN APPLYING FOR A REIMBURSEMENT

- Once you've received a reimbursement, you must present your European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) to get urgent medically necessary healthcare in the UK during the period covered. You may be charged for state healthcare if it is not medically necessary.
- You cannot repay the reimbursement if you change your mind or your circumstances change.
- To apply you will need to be sure that your country still considers that your EHIC is still valid having moved to the UK and an application may ask you for this evidence.



LOOK AFTER YOUR HEALTH- THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Register with your local doctor (GP) and Dentist
- Make sure that you are up to date with vaccinations
- MenACWY – protecting against 4 common strains causing meningitis and septicaemia
- MMR – protecting against measles, mumps, rubella
- HPV (for female students) – protecting against cervical and other cancers caused by the human papillomavirus (HPV)
- Understand about the vaccination programmes for Covid-19 and how you can get a vaccination if eligible
<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/find-a-walk-in-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

GOVERNMENT INFORMATION ON OVERSEAS VISITORS AND CHARGING FOR HEALTH SERVICES

- <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-the-nhs-charges-overseas-visitors-for-nhs-hospital-care/how-the-nhs-charges-overseas-visitors-for-nhs-hospital-care>

