



### **Training Grant Availability for Employers of Candidates in England - 2026 Update**

The IBMS through funding that came from the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) in Health Education England (HEE) is continuing to support scientists working in England to undertake various IBMS qualifications through the provision of funding that continues to have a direct and positive impact on IBMS members.

**Training grants will continue to be available on a first come first served basis in 2026 as described below and only until the funding for the project is used up. In all cases the funding is only available to candidates employed in England.**

### **Advanced Specialist Diploma (ASD) in Histopathology Reporting**

The candidates who are eligible for support are those who:

- were enrolled on, or who have commenced, any of the 'full' reporting qualifications since November 2020
- have commenced any of the 'limited scope' qualifications since they were launched in 2023
- commence any 'full' or 'limited scope' reporting qualification in 2026

'Full' reporting qualifications refer to the ASD in Dermatopathology Reporting, ASD in Gastrointestinal Histopathology Reporting or ASD in Gynaecological Histopathology Reporting.

'Limited Scope' reporting qualifications refer to the ASD in Bowel Screening Histopathology Reporting or ASD in Cervical Screening Histopathology Reporting.

Candidates who are on one of the 'full' qualifications or start one of those qualifications in 2026, have been, or will be allocated a budget of £9,000 to support their training. The IBMS will provide a training grant to the employer of £3,000 when the candidate starts each stage (A, B and C) of the 'full' qualification. The employer will use the grant to support the candidate through the stage. There is no funding support for candidates who are enrolled on Stage D (the preceptorship stage).

The Stage A grant will be paid when a candidate is accepted on to the qualification, and the employer has presented an appropriate invoice to the IBMS. The Stage B grant will be once a candidate has passed Stage A and the employer has presented an appropriate invoice to the IBMS. The Stage C grant will be paid once a candidate has passed the Stage B portfolio and the employer has presented an appropriate invoice to the IBMS.

The IBMS will provide a training grant to the employer of £3,000 when a candidate is accepted on to the 'limited scope' reporting qualification and the employer has presented an appropriate invoice to the IBMS. The employer will use the grant to support the candidate through the stage. There will be no funding support for candidates on the preceptorship stage.

The candidate must apply to the IBMS to submit the portfolio and to the RCPATH to sit the exam as appropriate for the 'full' and 'limited scope' reporting qualifications and the relevant fee will need to be paid to the appropriate organisation at that time either by the employer or the candidate.

### **Higher Specialist Diploma (HSD) Qualification**

The training grant of **£1,000 per candidate** will be provided to the employers of all new candidates who register on any of the **scientific** disciplines of the HSD. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have already registered on the HSD who are yet to submit their portfolio. Funding is **not** available to the employers of candidates undertaking the HSD in Leadership and Management.

### **IBMS/RCPATH - Diploma of Expert Practice (DEP) and Advanced Specialist Diploma (ASD) in Histological Dissection, DEP in Immunocytochemistry and DEP in Ultrastructural Pathology**

The training grant of **£1,000 per candidate** will be provided to the employers of all new candidates who apply for a training logbook for one of the stated qualifications. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have been already issued a logbook but who are yet to submit their portfolio.

### **IBMS/RCPATH DEP and ASD in Diagnostic Cytopathology and ASD in Cervical Cytology**

The training grant of **£1,000 per candidate** will be provided to the employers of all new candidates who register on the DEP or ASD in Diagnostic Cytopathology or the ASD in Cervical Cytology qualification. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have already registered on any of these three qualifications who are yet to submit their portfolio.

### **IBMS Distance Learning Certificate of Expert Practice (CEP) Qualifications in 2026**

Funding is **not** available to employers of candidates undertaking any of the CEP qualifications in 2026.

### **Process for Claiming Funding**

Before any claim is made candidates must be registered on the qualification and the Institute have received a relevant Purchase Order or card payment details. To claim the grant, the candidate's employer must invoice the Institute for the entitled amount.

The invoice that is submitted by the employer **must** include the name of the candidate that the employer is claiming funding for, and the employer's bank details to which the grant should be paid. If an employer has multiple candidates undertaking qualifications, they can all be included on the same invoice, but the name, the qualification being undertaken and the amount of funding being claimed for **each** candidate **must** be detailed on the invoice.

As this is grant funding the IBMS does not expect the employer to charge VAT. However, if VAT is charged this is not recoverable by the IBMS and will come out of the training grant total. The invoice should be sent to the IBMS Head of Examinations (Chris Ward) via email: [examinations@ibms.org](mailto:examinations@ibms.org)

It is the responsibility of the employer to agree with the candidate how the training grant will be used to support their training. This might include, but is not limited to, attendance at training courses, events, seminars and IBMS Congress, providing backfill to enable other staff to support the candidate undertaking the qualification, portfolio assessment and examination fees, travel and subsistence for attending courses and where necessary the exams and the purchase of textbooks related to the qualification being undertaken etc.

**The IBMS cannot accept claims directly from candidates so the candidate will need to seek reimbursement from the employer for any costs they incur themselves for which the grant is intended to cover.**

If the candidate leaves employment or fails to complete the qualification the training grant will not be recovered.

The IBMS **may** ask for a brief report from randomly selected employers on how the funds have been used to support their employees so that the IBMS can provide feedback to the HEE.

If you have any further queries, please contact the IBMS Head of Examinations (Chris Ward) via email: [examinations@ibms.org](mailto:examinations@ibms.org)