



## **Training grant availability for candidates in England on the Advanced Specialist Diploma (ASD) in Histopathology Reporting (October 2023 Update)**

Since November 2020 the IBMS and the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) in Health Education England (HEE) have been supporting scientists working in England to undertake IBMS/Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) histopathology qualifications. The funding is having a direct and positive impact on IBMS members. It demonstrates a tremendous mark of confidence in the Institute's professional examinations and underlines their value in the training of scientists to undertake advanced and consultant roles.

The candidates who are currently eligible for support includes those **employed in England** who:

- were enrolled on one of the 'full' Reporting qualifications as of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 (i.e., the ASD in Dermatopathology Reporting, ASD in Gastrointestinal Histopathology Reporting or ASD in Gynaecological Histopathology Reporting)
- have commenced any of the 'full' reporting qualifications since 1 November 2020 and before the 31 December 2023
- have commenced any of the 'limited scope' qualifications (i.e., the ASD in Bowel Screening Histopathology Reporting or ASD in Cervical Screening Histopathology Reporting) before the 31 December 2023

Whilst sufficient monies remain funding will also be made available to those who commence any 'full' or 'limited scope' reporting qualification in 2024.

Candidates who at the time of the start of the project in November 2020 who were on Stage A or B of the 'full' ASD in Histopathology Reporting or have commenced the 'full' qualification since that date, were, or have been, allocated a budget of £9,000 to support their training. Candidates who were on Stage C in November 2020 were allocated a budget of £3,000 to support their training.

Candidates who commenced one of the limited scope qualifications since their launch in September 2023 were, or have been, allocated a budget of £3,000 to support their training.

### **Process for Claiming Funding**

Funding is provided prospectively to the employer upon the commencement by the candidate of each stage of 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 the Stage A exam 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.

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 the reporting qualification, they can be included on the same invoice, but the name and 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)

The IBMS will inform the candidate once the training grant has been paid. 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 the exams and the purchase of textbooks etc.

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.

**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 stage of the qualification the training grant for that stage will not be recovered.

The employer will be responsible for ensuring the funds are used to support the candidate. Once the candidate has completed the stage the IBMS **will** ask for a brief report on how the funds have been used to support the candidate 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)