



Training grant availability for employer of candidates in England undertaking the IBMS/RCPATH the Diploma of Expert Practice (DEP) and Advanced Specialist Diploma (ASD) Cytopathology Qualifications (July 2022 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 are undertaking the DEP or ASD in Non-Gynaecological Cytology or the ASD in Cervical Cytology qualification.

New Process from 1 August 2022 for Claiming Funding

Rather than providing a grant of £500 to the employer once the candidate has sat the exam, the IBMS will from this date will provide the employer a training grant of £1,000 when the employer confirms the candidate has started studying for the qualification.

This is done by the candidate applying to the IBMS to submit the portfolio and sit the exam. The relevant fee must be paid to the IBMS at that time either by the candidate by card payment or by the employer through the provision of a purchase order. The training grant will be provided for all new candidates until the end of the contract the IBMS has with NSHCS in HEE in October 2025 whilst funding is available.

The grant is also available to the employers of candidates sitting exams in 2022 and employers of candidates who have already indicated that they intend to submit their portfolio and sit the exam in 2023 or 2024.

To access the grant the employer will have to invoice the IBMS for the grant. The invoice **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 DEP and/or ASD Non-Gynaecological Cytology and/or ASD Cervical Cytology, they can be included on the same invoice, but the name of each candidate grant funding is being claimed for **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

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 grant will be used to support the training of the candidate. This might include, but is not limited to, attendance at training courses, events, seminars and IBMS Congress, portfolio and examination fees, travel and subsistence costs for attending the microscopy exams and the purchase of textbooks etc.

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

The employer is responsible for ensuring that the funds are used to support the candidate and once the candidate has sat the exam the IBMS **may** ask for a report explaining how the funding was used to support the candidate.

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