Training grant availability for employer of candidates in England undertaking the IBMS Higher Specialist Diploma (HSD) Qualification (Updated February 2023)

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 several different IBMS 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.

In October 2022 the candidates who were eligible for support was widened to include those employed in England who are undertaking the IBMS Higher Specialist Diploma (HSD) in one of the eight scientific disciplines. From 1 February 2023 those eligible for funding was widened again to also include those undertaking the HSD in Leadership and Management. This means that all the HSD routes are now covered.

The training grant of £1,000 per candidate will be provided to the employers of all new candidates who register on the HSD before the 31 December 2023. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have already registered on the qualification with the intention to submit their portfolio and sit the exam in 2023 or 2024.

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 and the purchase of textbooks etc.

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 reserves the right to ask for a report detailing how the funding was used to support the candidate.

Accessing the Grant

For new candidates the relevant course fee must be fully paid to the IBMS by the candidate or by the employer through the provision of a purchase order.

The employer will need to submit an invoice to the IBMS for the value of 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 HSD, 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 addressed to:
If the candidate leaves employment or fails to complete the qualification the training grant will not be recovered.

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