



HEE Training Grant Availability for Employers of Candidates in England in 2024

The IBMS and the National School of Healthcare Science (NSHCS) in Health Education England (HEE) are supporting scientists working in England to undertake various IBMS qualifications through the provision of funding that is having a direct and positive impact on IBMS members. The funding 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.

Funding will continue to be available in 2024 as described below. **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 one of the 'full' Reporting qualifications as of 1st November 2020 or who have commenced any of the 'full' reporting qualifications since that date
- have commenced any of the 'limited scope' qualifications since they were launched in September 2023
- commence any 'full' or 'limited scope' reporting qualification in 2024.

'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 at the time of the start of the project in November 2020 were on Stage A or B of the 'full' ASD in Histopathology Reporting, have commenced one of the 'full' qualifications since that date or start one of the 'full' qualifications in 2024, 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 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.

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 disciplines of the HSD before the **31 December 2024**. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have already registered on the HSD who are yet to submit their portfolio.

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 at the start of one of the stated qualifications until the **31 December 2024**. The training grant is also accessible to employers of candidates who have been already issued a logbook but 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 (formerly called the DEP or ASD in Non-Gynaecological Cytology) or the ASD in Cervical Cytology qualification before the **31 December 2024**. The grant is also available to the employers of candidates who have already registered on the qualification who are yet to submit their portfolio.

IBMS Distance Learning Certificate of Expert Practice (CEP) Qualifications in 2024

A training grant will be available for those **employed in England** who are undertaking any of the following CEP qualifications in **2024**:

- CEP in Laboratory Information Technology and Clinical Informatics
- CEP in Leadership and Management
- CEP in Molecular Pathology
- CEP in Point of Care Testing
- CEP in Quality Management
- CEP in Training

To ensure that the widest possible number of employers can benefit from the availability of this funding the grant for those undertaking the CEPs in 2024 will be **£500 per candidate**. Claims relating to these qualifications will be accepted and must be dated after the **1 January 2024**. Claims must be submitted to the IBMS by **Wednesday 31 July 2024**.

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

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