

Other leaflets in this series:

Academic:

I disagree with my marks  
I hate my course  
I've been accused of plagiarism

Housing:

Do I need to pay council tax?  
How can I save money on my fuel bills?  
How can I get my deposit back?  
I want to get out of my tenancy agreement  
My house is a dump

Money:

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Help I'm skint  
How can I fund my course?  
I'm really bad with money  
My boss owes me money

General

How do I complain about the University?  
I've got a University disciplinary hearing

# Can I get help with health costs?

Students' Union Advice and Representation Centre  
1st Floor, Falmer House, Brighton, BN1 9QF  
Tel: 01273 877038 Fax: 01273 873501  
Email: [advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk](mailto:advice@ussu.sussex.ac.uk)



Advice & Representation

[www.sussexstudent.com/advice](http://www.sussexstudent.com/advice)



You shouldn't have to pay for any NHS treatment if you are:

- under 19 and in full-time education; or
- in receipt of certain means-tested benefits; or
- over 60; or
- hold a valid maternity or medical exemption certificate; or
- suffer from certain specified medical conditions.

Even if you don't automatically qualify for free NHS treatment, you may still be able to get full or partial exemption from NHS prescription charges, dental treatment, opticians' charges etc under the NHS Low Income Scheme.

To apply, complete form HC1 and send it to the NHS Business Services Authority who will calculate if you're entitled to any help. How much help you receive will depend on your level of income.

International students studying in the UK for 6 months or more can also apply for help under this scheme.

If you've already paid for NHS treatment before requesting help under the NHS Low Income Scheme, you may still be able to get a refund within 3 months by completing form HC5.

If you don't qualify for help under the NHS Low Income Scheme but have to pay for a lot of prescriptions (more than 4 in a 3-month period), it is usually worthwhile buying a Prescription Pre-Payment Certificate (PPC).

For further information about either the NHS Low Income Scheme or Prescription Pre-Payment Certificates please see the resources listed below:

#### **Leaflets/resources available from the Advice & Representation Centre:**

- NHS Claim for help with health costs form (HC1)
- NHS Help with health costs quick guide for students leaflet (HC11)
- NHS Charges and optical voucher values (HC12)
- NHS Claim form for NHS cost refunds (HC5).

#### **Websites:**

- NHS Business Services Authority – NHS Low Income Scheme at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1125.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1125.aspx)
- UKCISA guidance note 'Keeping Healthy' for international students at [http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info\\_sheets/keeping\\_healthy.php](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student/info_sheets/keeping_healthy.php)
- NHS Business Services Authority – PPC Issue Office at [www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1127.aspx](http://www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/1127.aspx)
- general- [nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts/2733.aspax](http://nhsbsa.nhs.uk/healthcosts/2733.aspax)

#### **Talk to someone:**

- Advice and Representation Centre [www.sussexstudent.com/advice](http://www.sussexstudent.com/advice) or call 01273 877038
- Ring the NHS Low Income Scheme enquiry line on 0845 850 1166
- Ring the PPC Issue Office on 0845 850 0030.