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# The Cost of Being a Medical Student

In the face of what many are calling the most challenging economic climate in decades, the repercussions of soaring inflation rates are reverberating throughout the nation. Many public sector workers have taken to the streets in protest, with the well-documented junior doctor strikes serving as a poignant example. However, amidst the headlines, the financial struggles of a vital group have gone relatively unnoticed: medical students.

A recent financial survey conducted by the British Medical Association (BMA) has shed light on the alarming impact on medical students nationwide. The majority of over a thousand respondents reported having to make sacrifices in basic necessities such as food and heating, while over 40% disclosed running out of funds before the end of the term. Furthermore, more than half of the respondents revealed having to juggle part-time work to finance their studies, but a significant majority felt this compromise adversely affected their academic performance.

These findings are not in isolation. A recent poll commissioned by The Office for Students (OfS) found similar rates of financial hardship amongst students in higher education. In addition to this, almost 20% of students had considered dropping out of their course due to financial difficulties. In 2022, an article published in The British Medical Journal (thebmj) assessed the current plight of final year students balancing jobs on top of clinical placements as well as the staggering amount of debt students encounter upon graduating.



In a time when the NHS is facing unprecedented challenges with recruitment and retention, it seems the lack of financial support for medical students may further compound these issues.

This year, the SURGO team are committed to understanding the true extent of the cost-of-living crisis medical students face during the 2023/24 academic term. We are reaching out to the medical student community in Glasgow with a short, anonymous survey designed to capture your experiences. The data gathered will be carefully analysed and compiled into a comprehensive report, which will be featured in our next edition. Our goal with this survey is to unravel the financial challenges entwined with pursuing a medical degree in 2023/24 and advocate for enhanced support from the medical school to alleviate these burdens during your university journey. Join us to spotlight the realities faced by medical students. Scan the QR code or check the link on our Instagram page to share your insights.

