

P R E S S R E L E A S E

***** Embargoed until 00:01 Monday 10 February 2014 *****

NASMA launches biggest ever National Student Money Week!

The National Association of Student Money Advisers (NASMA for short) today launches the most ambitious and far-reaching **National Student Money Week**, (NSMW).

The national event, which aims to promote the free help and support available to all students and prospective students, begins on Monday 10 February 2014 and for the very first time covers a 4 week period. The event is supported by Universities and Colleges throughout the UK and has a clear message:

“Manage your money – don’t let it manage you”

Students, and anyone interested in becoming a student, are encouraged to apply as early as possible for any potential funding which may be available to them.

National Student Money Week takes place each year and is designed to ensure that students, their parents, the media, politicians and the general public get to know about and celebrate the financial support and advice offered free of charge in Universities, Colleges and Students’ Unions across the UK. The four week focus provides an opportunity to take a positive message to the widest possible audience and contribute to the collective voice of those working to improve financial skills.

Events being held in Universities, Colleges and Students Unions across the UK include roadshows, competitions, drop-in sessions and training for staff and students. NSMW 2014 will play a crucial role in addressing the myths about student funding, at the same time as providing accurate and accessible information and top tips for students.

NASMA Office · West One · 114 Wellington Street · Leeds · LS1 1BA

|| Telephone: 0113 212 3503 || Email: Office@nasma.org.uk || @NASMA_UK ||

The National Association of Money Advisers is a registered charity no. 1142415 and a company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales no. 05165006.

NASMA's Chair, Phil Davis said:

"NASMA provides free and accessible information and support to its members across the UK and National Student Money Week provides a special focus to publicise what's available and helps to raise the profile of what we do and how we support students across the UK.

For the first time, we have extended NSMW to cover a 4 week period from Monday 10 February 2014 and our members will be highlighting the wide range of support available to current and future students, to help them manage their money.

In the current economic climate we appreciate that it's not just students who are anxious about their finances and we've been able to join together with partners to share resources to help students manage their money. This year NSMW themes include accommodation, credit and health and well-being.

We appreciate the anxieties students and their families feel leaving home for the first time and trying to manage a very tight budget, but there is no reason for students to feel alone managing their finances. National Student Money Week provides proactive and engaging activities across the UK, to promote the free help and support available and we encourage students to get involved in NSMW and check out our web site for further help and support available to them."

Nichola Malton, Assessment Manager at the Student Loans Company, said:

"National Student Money Week is a great time to start thinking about your finances and researching the funding that's available to help with your university fees and living costs.

New students can apply for their funding now at gov.uk/studentfinance. You don't need to have a confirmed university place - you can use your first choice of course to apply, which can be updated later. It's best to get your application in as early as possible to ensure you have your funding at the start of term.

One of our top tips is to send any evidence we request from you straight away, and also remember to sign and return your online declaration form to us as we can't release your funding until we have received this."

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Universities and Colleges across the UK are taking part in NSMW and during the 4 weeks there is a general health and well-being theme to promote the importance adopting a healthy lifestyle to promote well-being for students. Further information is available at: www.nasma.org.uk/Student-Money-Week.

ENDS.

Notes

NASMA is the National Association of Student Money Advisers, see www.nasma.org.uk

There are over 600 NASMA members in all four countries in the UK and collectively NASMA is recognised as the leading authority on all matters relating to student advice and funding.

NASMA is a registered charity in England & Wales, acting as a focus for information exchange between practitioners in the field of student funding and brings together professionals from across the sector to encourage the sharing good practice. NASMA works closely with national decision makers and partners to influence student finance policy.

In addition, NASMA works with other relevant organisations across the sectors to promote the needs of students, support professional student money advisers, student welfare and specialist fund and bursary administrators.

NASMA strives to relieve the poverty of students through the provision of good quality advice, information and training.

The focus for the four weeks of NSMW 2014 is as follows:

- Week commencing 10 February 2014 – launch of NSMW
- Week commencing 17 February 2014 – payday lending and affordable credit
- Week commencing 24 February 2014 – accommodation theme (energy saving, carbon monoxide awareness, deposits, etc.)
- Week commencing March 2014 – healthy mind and healthy body – wellness and the importance of good physical and mental health.

Well-being will run as a general theme throughout the four weeks.

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NASMA will use **#NSMW14** on Twitter and will be pleased for supporters to tweet and re-tweet during NSMW 2014.

Further information from:

NASMA Office

Tel: 0113 212 3503 or 07715 179498

Email: office@nasma.org.uk

Web: www.nasma.org.uk

Follow us on Twitter [@NASMA_uk](https://twitter.com/NASMA_uk) and use the hashtag **#NSMW14**

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