



Guide to  
**Postgraduate Study**  
at Newcastle



# Introduction

At Newcastle University, postgraduate study is an integral part of campus life. Across our subject areas, we have over 4,700 students engaged in research or studying Master's-level programmes. Consequently, we have a very good understanding of the questions you need to ask and the issues you need to consider when you first start thinking about postgraduate study.

This Guide contains the essential information you need to help you make an informed choice about postgraduate study. Issues covered include the differences between taught and research programmes, finding funding and writing your application.

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# Postgraduate study

Postgraduate study appeals to individuals from diverse backgrounds: professionals who want to further their careers; people who are passionate about a specialist subject; entrepreneurs who want to launch their own business and many more. Whatever your motivation, postgraduate study can offer you a unique combination of benefits that makes the time and financial investment worthwhile.

## Specialist knowledge and resources

As a student at Newcastle, you will have access to first-class facilities and unique resources which are not readily available outside the university environment. For example we have recently invested £1.9 million in our chemistry laboratories to ensure they meet the latest industry standards. Our new £4.5 million music building has 24-hour practice rooms, including a large ensemble/band room, and studios equipped with state-of-the-art technology for sound synthesis, composition and recording.

## Career development

A relevant postgraduate qualification can improve your career progression in the sector you are currently working in or it can enable you to move into a new profession. This is because many programmes include work-related tasks such as project-based assignments, case-study analyses and work placements. Where appropriate, programmes are accredited by professional bodies and developed in consultation with them. You may also have the opportunity to attend guest lectures, which enable you to meet and listen to professionals currently working in your chosen sector. In addition, employers value the high-level transferable skills in team working, problem solving, creative thinking and time management that you develop through your studies.

Being a postgraduate student also enables you to draw on the careers advice and support provided by your chosen university. For example, at Newcastle our award-winning Careers Service provides one-to-one support and advice to all students, arranges paid work experience placements and advertises vacancies from over 1,500 employers including more than 80 employers featured in *The Times* Top 100.

## A relevant qualification from a recognised provider

For many professions there are innumerable qualifications and training opportunities. However, not all of the providers are well-known, and it can be difficult to gauge if the level of study will be appropriate for you and to compare different courses. Universities are established education providers and adhere to the frameworks set by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education, so you can compare different courses and be reassured that your qualification meets required standards.

## Academic and personal success

Internationally, postgraduate qualifications from UK universities are held in very high regard. In addition, although the number of people studying at postgraduate level has grown in recent years, the percentage of people with a postgraduate qualification is still quite small. Consequently, when you complete your studies, you will join an elite group.



# Choosing a university

As you draw up your list of preferred universities, you need to check the postgraduate credentials of your subject area at each of your chosen institutions. Using Newcastle University as an example, here are some of the factors you should consider.

## Subject focus

The overall size of a university is less important than the fact that the university should value your subject area. At Newcastle we have over 190 taught programmes and 70 research areas delivered by 23 subject-based schools and 13 research institutes. This enables us to offer breadth of choice and depth of knowledge across different subject areas:

- arts and humanities
- biological, environmental and agricultural sciences
- biomedicine
- business, finance and management
- education, communication and language sciences
- engineering
- mathematical and computing sciences
- social sciences and law

## Research activity

Most universities undertake research. For Russell Group universities, like Newcastle, the income received from research grants and contracts is substantial. This enables us to attract the best academics, invest in our facilities and leads to a high quality of postgraduate provision for you.

The Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) is the UK's official survey of research quality and enables you to compare the research performance of different UK universities by subject. The 2008 RAE identified research that is 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent' in all 38 of Newcastle's submitted subject areas.

## Research training

Alongside the headline research successes, another important consideration is the training and support a university has in place to develop the next generation of researchers. At Newcastle we have a comprehensive and flexible training package that enables our research students to develop high-level competencies in transferable skills such as project management, communication and presentation skills, and information management techniques. The package also includes tailored training for international students to help you make the transition into studying and living in the UK.

## Teaching quality

The Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) regularly carries out audits on UK universities to check that a good quality education is being provided. You can use these to compare the performance of each of your chosen universities. In previous subject-specific reviews, Newcastle achieved an excellent average of 22 out of 24 for all subjects assessed. The University is undergoing Institutional Audit in Autumn 2009 and the outcomes will be published by the QAA in April 2010.

## University facilities

Most universities offer a similar broad mix of student services. Those which have a significant postgraduate student population will offer services tailored to the needs of postgraduates. For example, our Faculty Liaison Librarians are trained in specific subject areas to assist postgraduate students. We have designated postgraduate accommodation with Internet connection in all study-bedrooms, and provide help to students looking for accommodation in the private sector. This includes a house-hunting weekend that can help you meet other postgraduate students looking for accommodation.

# Taught programmes

Taught programmes are structured, Master's-level courses that are designed to improve your subject knowledge and skills, to develop your ability to analyse issues and to enable you to contribute to academic discussion and debate. Each programme has a series of modules, which may include optional modules so you can shape the programme around your subject interests or career aspirations.

## Taught qualifications

A programme may offer up to three different awards:

- Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert)
- Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip)
- Master's award (eg MA, MSc, MBA)

It may also be possible to study modules on a one-off basis for Continuing Professional Development (CPD).

The titles of Masters' awards vary to reflect the subject area studied:

- MA – Master of Arts
- MBA – Master of Business Administration
- MClEd – Master of Clinical Education
- MClRes – Master of Clinical Research
- MEd – Master of Education
- MFA – Master of Fine Art
- LL.M – Master of Law
- MSc – Master of Science

Some Masters' awards such as MMus, MRes, MLitt and MPhil are research degrees. For more information about these programmes, please see page 8.

## Entry requirements

For most taught postgraduate programmes at Newcastle you will need a degree. Some programmes will accept a second-class Honours degree (2:2) or equivalent, while other programmes will expect an upper-second-class Honours degree (2:1) or equivalent, or higher. If English is not your first language, you will also have to meet our English language requirements, which vary depending on the subject area. For detailed entry requirements, please check our *Postgraduate Prospectus* for information relevant to your chosen programme.

We also welcome applications from professionals who have significant work experience. Through our Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) policy you can apply for exemption from taught modules within a programme if you can demonstrate equivalent learning. We also accept students studying at European institutions via the European Credit Transfer Scheme (ECTS).



## Study duration

At Newcastle, a Master's award normally takes 12 months (full-time study) or 24 months (part-time study). A Postgraduate Diploma normally takes nine months (full-time study) or 18 months (part-time study). The duration of a Postgraduate Certificate varies from subject to subject.

Most programmes start in September and timetabled classes run until April/May with breaks for the Christmas and Easter holidays. If your programme includes a dissertation or a research project, this normally takes place over the summer (May/June to August/September) and you receive one-to-one guidance from your supervisor.

## Part-time and flexible study

Since postgraduate study may have to fit around existing work and family commitments, there are different study options available. For example, some of our programmes offer a part-time route whereby a module is delivered intensively over one or two weeks with preparatory reading before the module begins and time to complete assignments afterwards. Many of the modules delivered on this basis can be completed as individual Continuing Professional Development (CPD) modules. We also offer a select number of programmes on a distance-learning basis, for which contact with your tutors and fellow students is mostly via e-mail and the Internet.

## Study experience

Your timetable will include a mixture of lectures, seminars and, depending on your subject choice, lab-based sessions and practicals.

In addition to your timetabled classes you will also need to undertake a considerable amount of independent study. This may include preparing group presentations, reading, writing up field notes, and essay and report writing.

Many of the activities and assignments you undertake involve small group work and one-to-one supervision. This enables you to foster a good working relationship with your fellow students and the academic staff. Sometimes you may share lectures with students from other programmes. For example, the research skills needed for many humanities-based subjects are broadly the same. Consequently students who need these skills attend the same lectures but the seminar work is still taught in small groups.

## Further information

For full details of the taught programmes available at Newcastle, please see [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate) or order a copy of our *Postgraduate Prospectus* (see page 19 for details).

‘I thoroughly enjoy my course and engaging with ideas and with people. The library has a great collection and having online access to journals is wonderful, especially as I split my time between Newcastle and my home in Scotland. The postgraduate training suite in the Daysh Building is very plush and has good computing facilities. Away from my studies, I enjoy meeting up for coffee and going out for meals with fellow postgrads from my subject area.’

**Elinor, MA Human Geography**



# Research degrees

Research degrees are very different to taught programmes. Their focus is a research project that you develop in conjunction with an academic supervisor and you are often engaged in cutting-edge research. You work independently, but receive advice, research training and supervision from a designated team of academics.

## Research qualifications

### MRes (Master of Research)

This is available in various subject areas and combines taught modules, research training and a dissertation. It normally has a set title, for example, MRes in Technology in the Marine Environment. An MRes is particularly suitable as preparation for a PhD, for a career in academic or industrial research, or in professions where an understanding of research methods is essential.

### MLitt (Master of Letters)

This is only available for arts-based programmes and normally has a set title, for example, MLitt in English Language. It may combine taught modules with research training and assignments. You write either a supervised dissertation (16–24,000 words) or a series of smaller research assignments.

### MPhil (Master of Philosophy)

This is available for most subject areas. You receive research training and undertake original research leading to the completion of a 40–50,000-word thesis. The title of your award is normally based on the title of your research project.

Although the MRes, MLitt and MPhil are often taken as awards in their own right they can be viewed as preparation for a PhD.

### MMus (Master of Music)

This is a project-based programme in creative musical practice. It involves a music research training module, creative projects and taught modules. A dissertation may be substituted for certain modules.

### PhD (Doctor of Philosophy)

### MD (Doctor of Medicine)

### DDS (Doctor of Dental Surgery)

For the awards of PhD, MD and DDS you are expected to produce a substantial piece of work (80–100,000 words) that is built around a supervised thesis and shows evidence of originality worthy of publication. The title of your award is normally based on the title of your research project. The PhD is available for all subject areas. The awards of MD and DDS are only available for doctors and dentists respectively.

Each year, Newcastle University advertises approximately 120 PhD programmes with funding attached to them (research studentships). Some of these PhDs are linked to a research project and consequently their scope is determined by the needs of the project. For more information about this type of PhD, please see page 15.

### Integrated PhD

The Integrated PhD is of an equivalent standard to a PhD but it combines taught modules with a research thesis (approximately 50,000 words). Integrated PhDs normally have a set title, for example, Integrated PhD in Environmental Science.

### Professional doctorates

Professional doctorates are designed for members of specific groups who are seeking an advanced understanding of professional skills and practice. These doctorates have a set title, for example, Doctor of Clinical Psychology (DClinPsychol), and combine a substantial thesis, a structured taught element and work-based placements.

## Entry requirements

For a research degree, you will need an undergraduate degree and you may need a Master's qualification, although this is not always necessary.

## Study duration

The *Postgraduate Prospectus* provides sample durations for full-time and part-time study. The actual timing of your studies will vary depending on the qualification you are studying for and the funding you have arranged. At Newcastle, research degrees that have a taught component normally start in September. If you apply for a funded PhD that is linked to a research project, your start date will be influenced by the project. If you have developed a research proposal in conjunction with an academic and you are self-funding your studies, you may start at other times of the year depending on when it is mutually convenient to you and the supervising academics.

## Study experience

It is difficult to generalise about the study experience for research degree students. However, there are some study traits that may help you decide if postgraduate research is for you.

Students on research degrees do spend a large proportion of their time working independently on their research, although at Newcastle we will take great care to ensure that you become part of our postgraduate community. You will receive ongoing, regular support from your supervisory team and from the postgraduate students with whom you will share office accommodation and lab facilities. You will also attend taught classes such as research training workshops and, where appropriate, subject-specific postgraduate modules.

Being able to structure your time, set targets and submit work to agreed deadlines is essential. It ensures that your research remains on track and enables you to participate in other activities which add value to your study experience and help your future career development. For example, full-time students may undertake paid teaching and demonstrating duties and you will be encouraged to write papers and present your findings at academic conferences.

You must be very methodical, keeping clear records and cataloguing your findings and discoveries at the time you make them. This is because you will not just be considering existing work; you will be developing original ideas and you must be able to provide supporting evidence. You must also be able to properly reference your work as you write your thesis.

Just as important as keeping your mind focused on your research is developing the ability to switch off so that you can relax. Playing sport, getting involved in student societies or enjoying time with family and friends are very important for keeping a research-life balance.

## Further information

For full details of the research degrees available at Newcastle, please see [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate) or order a copy of our *Postgraduate Prospectus* (see page 19 for details).



“Doing a PhD and exploring new territory is a very challenging yet rewarding experience. The level of support and facilities available here at Newcastle have a deservedly high reputation. The research training programme develops high-level transferable skills that ensure you complete your PhD studies and are highly sought-after by employers. The staff are enthusiastic and the atmosphere within the school, both professionally and socially, is second to none.”

**David, PhD Pure Mathematics**

# How to apply

Normally, you apply directly to a university using their application form. Our online application form is available at [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply). Some programmes, such as the PGCE and some professional doctorates, have their own application procedure which you must follow. Guidance on how to apply to Newcastle University is given below.

## Before you apply

We strongly recommend that you read our application guidance notes and check the closing dates for your chosen programmes and any relevant funding sources. Although most programmes do not have a closing date most funding sources do and you normally need to have received an offer of a place on a course before you can apply for any funding.

Your actual or predicted exam results for your undergraduate studies or, for international students, your English language qualifications should meet our published entry requirements. If they do not, please contact us before you apply as we may still consider your application.

## Applying to Newcastle University

[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply)

At Newcastle, unless you are applying for a specialist programme, we prefer you to use our online application form (see above). This form is used for both taught programmes and research degrees. It is easy to use and you can save and update your application as many times as you like before you submit it. The online system also enables you to track the progress of your application.

If you do not have access to a computer, we can send you a paper application form. Please contact the Enquiries Service (see page 19).

## Specialist application procedures

At Newcastle, there are some programmes whose application process is handled by a separate organisation. The programmes are:

- PGCE (primary and secondary)  
Applications must be made through the Graduate Teacher Training Registry (GTTR), [www.gttr.ac.uk](http://www.gttr.ac.uk)
- Applied Educational Psychology (DAppEdPsy)  
Applications for a funded position must be made through the Children's Workforce Development Council, [www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/educationalpsychology](http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/educationalpsychology)
- Clinical Psychology (DClinPsychol)  
Applications must be made through the Clearing House for Postgraduate Courses in Clinical Psychology, [www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/chpccp)
- Low Intensity Psychological Therapies and High Intensity Psychological Therapies  
Application and selection are undertaken in partnership with the NHS Trusts advertising the vacancies.
- Process Automation  
Please see the PACT web pages for more information and a booking form, [www.ncl.ac.uk/ceam/postgrad/taught/automation.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ceam/postgrad/taught/automation.htm)
- Marine Technology Education Consortium (MTEC)  
Please see the MTEC website for more information and a booking form, [www.mtec.ac.uk](http://www.mtec.ac.uk)



### International students

- Direct applications

Applying directly to the University using our online application form is very simple and is especially recommended for students who have good Internet access. Our International Office is pleased to offer you support and advice with your application and the form is available at [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply)

- Applying through an education agent

If you are considering using the services of an education agent to support you in your application we strongly recommend that you use one of our approved agents.

We currently work directly with agents in 36 countries and their details are listed on our website, [www.ncl.ac.uk/international/edreps](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/edreps). We also work with many agents who are approved by our global education partner, INTO.

### Completing the application form

We receive applications from students from a wide range of backgrounds and we make offers to those who can demonstrate that they have the ability and motivation for postgraduate study. As well as your academic performance, we also value relevant work or voluntary experience and good transferable skills such as project management, communication skills and problem solving.

An important element of the application form is the personal statement (for applications for a taught Master's programme, and MMus and MRes applicants) and information about research interests (research degree applicants).

### Personal statement

This is your opportunity to demonstrate why you are suitable for the course. Your statement should include relevant examples that illustrate your skills and experience and should cover areas such as:

- why you have chosen the course and why you have chosen Newcastle University
- how you will apply your current skills, knowledge and experience to the course
- successes and achievements that are relevant to the course and show your aptitude for postgraduate study
- your career plans and ambitions

### Research interests

The level of detail you should provide about your research interests varies by subject. Please see the graduate schools website (provided on page 19) for details of which faculty matches your subject and then follow the application guidance provided on the relevant website:

- Humanities and Social Sciences  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/hss/postgrad/research/apply.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/hss/postgrad/research/apply.htm)
- Science, Agriculture and Engineering  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/sage/postgrad/research\\_degree.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/sage/postgrad/research_degree.htm)
- Medical Sciences  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/biomedicine/postgrad/research/finding.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/biomedicine/postgrad/research/finding.htm)

If you are applying for a funded PhD studentship, details of what you should include in your application will be provided in the PhD advert.



## Referees

On the application form you will need to include contact details for two referees, one of whom should be an academic referee. If it is some time since you last studied, please contact us for advice.

## Supporting documentation

When you submit your application, you should include copies of the following documents:

- transcripts or certificates to confirm your degree or highest qualification. If any of your documents are in another language you will need to supply certified English language translations
- an IELTS or TOEFL test certificate or equivalent to confirm your English language ability (international students only)

If we make you an offer, we may ask you to provide the original copies of any documents you included with your application. You would normally bring these documents with you to Registration.

You do not need to send any pre-university qualification documentation, non-translated documents or non-academic certificates of achievement.

## Considering your application

When we receive your application, it is passed to the relevant Graduate School. They prefer to contact you by e-mail as this is quicker than post. However, if they send you any formal documents by e-mail, for example an offer letter, they will also send you a copy of the document in the post.

## Offers

We endeavour to reply to applicants as soon as possible and you should receive a response within three weeks. If we make you an offer, it will either be conditional or unconditional.

### Conditional offer

These are made to applicants who apply in advance of receiving their exam results for their degree or, for international students, their English language

programme. For example, if you are in the final year of your undergraduate degree, any offer you receive will be conditional based on you achieving a particular classification in your degree.

### Unconditional offer

These are made to applicants who have met the entry criteria for their chosen taught programme or research degree and submitted relevant documentation at the time of application.

## Replying to an offer

If you receive an offer, you have time to consider if you want to accept or decline it. Normally there is no specific deadline for replying but it is in your best interest to reply as soon as possible as this will reserve your place on your chosen programme of study. There are also other considerations to take into account:

- international students must accept their offer before they can apply for a visa, student entry clearance or arrange University accommodation
- it is usually a condition of funding bodies that you hold at least a conditional offer before you apply for a studentship, scholarship or award. Since their deadlines are normally February/March you will need to have received an offer by then

Once you accept the offer, we will assume that you will be coming to Newcastle to study. However, your acceptance is not binding and you can change your mind. If you do accept an offer and then choose to study elsewhere, please let us know immediately so that we can make that place available to someone else.

### Certificate of Acceptance

If you accept an unconditional offer, you will receive a Certificate of Acceptance. If you accept a conditional offer, the Certificate of Acceptance is issued once you have met the conditions of the offer.

For international students, the Certificate of Acceptance is the visa letter that is required as part of your visa application. For more information, see [www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk](http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/studyingintheuk)

## Deposits

For some of our programmes you have to pay a deposit to secure your place. The deposit is non-refundable. Your tuition fees are then adjusted to reflect the deposit you have paid.

## Making plans

Once you have accepted your offer, you can start making arrangements to come to Newcastle. You will receive a copy of the *Student Accommodation* brochure which gives details of University and private sector accommodation. International students are also sent the *International Student Handbook*, which provides tailored information on accommodation, immigration, health, money matters, travel, international welcome events and student life.

A few weeks before the start of term, we will send you a copy of the *Welcome Booklet*, which contains information about registration, arrival, induction and orientation, Freshers' Week, tuition fees, finance, health and key University facilities. The Booklet is also available online at [www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival)

‘ I initially applied to a number of universities and got offers from most of them. One of the main reasons I chose Newcastle was the way the University handled my application. They were very, very prompt with replies to my numerous questions regarding the University. My career adviser also recommended the University to me. ’

**Nehaa, MSc Finance**



# Funding and finance

It is important that you start thinking about the costs of postgraduate study and the funding sources available to you as early as possible, ideally up to a year before your studies begin. As you draw up your shortlist of preferred universities, you should keep a note of the tuition fees, estimated costs of living and any available funding sources.

## Drawing up a budget

It is essential to draw up a realistic budget that establishes what you will spend your money on and how much things will cost. This will then enable you to make adequate financial arrangements to cover the duration of your studies.

### Tuition fees and course expenditure

Tuition fees will make up a significant part of your budget. The fees you pay are influenced by the subject you study, whether you are a UK/EU or international student, and if you have previously studied at Master's level.

If you are a UK/EU student who already has a postgraduate qualification equal to or higher than the programme you are applying for, you may pay more for your tuition fees. This would apply, for example, if you have an MSc and decide to study for another MSc or a Postgraduate Diploma. This is because the UK government no longer provides funding to universities for students in these circumstances, although some exemptions do apply.

There may also be additional expenses connected to your studies, such as travel, field trips and materials which are not covered by your fees.

### Living costs

Students living and studying in Newcastle can generally expect a lower cost of living than in many other parts of the UK. As a general guide we estimate that for living costs UK students will need to allow approximately £8,000–£8,500 per year and EU/international students will need £8,500–£9,000 a year.

The biggest item of expenditure will be your rent. University-owned accommodation ranges from £72.05 per week for single accommodation up to £119.63 per week for family accommodation (includes heating, lighting, water rates, personal insurance and Internet connection). Accommodation in the private sector ranges from £45–£80 per week (please note this does not include heating, lighting etc). Your remaining living costs will vary depending on the lifestyle you lead.

Estimated living costs	
Item	Cost per month
Food	£120
Travel	£35
Study (eg books, photocopying and printing costs)	£45
Mobile phone	£30
Social life	£120
Clothing	£50
Miscellaneous (eg unexpected bills, laundry costs)	£25

*Please note that all figures are for guidance only and will rise in line with inflation.*

Once you have drawn up your budget, you may want to start considering your options. For example, for some, part-time study becomes their favoured option because it enables them to pay their tuition fees in smaller, more manageable instalments over a longer period of time.

## Finding funding

At Newcastle, the only programmes with mandatory funding for UK/EU students are: PGCE (primary and secondary); Clinical Psychology (DClinPsychol); Applied Educational Psychology (DAppEdPsy); and Language Pathology (MSc). If you are an international student or a UK/EU student who is interested in a different research degree or taught Master's programme, you will need to identify if there is any funding available for you.

A good place to start your search is the *Postgraduate Prospectus*, which names the main funding providers for each of our research areas and taught programmes. Further details of each provider, as well as updated information about new funding sources, is available from the University's Postgraduate Funding Database, [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding)

In addition, most of our school and institute websites have details of funding sources and our staff may be able to tell you how current students are financing their studies.

### UK Research Councils

There are seven UK Research Councils:

- Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)
- Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)
- Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)
- Medical Research Council (MRC)
- Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)
- Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC)

Since most of the funding they offer for taught programmes and research degrees is allocated to universities who then advertise and allocate the studentships, you **should not apply directly** to any of the research councils. Instead, you should ask your chosen universities about which research council funded opportunities they have available. Please note that funding is only available to applicants who meet the research council's eligibility criteria for qualifications and UK residency. If you require a Tier 4 (General) Student visa to study in the UK, you will not be eligible for research council funding.

## Funding types

### Research studentships

These are funded PhD opportunities and, depending on how you meet the eligibility criteria, they cover fees, provide an annual stipend (living allowance) and may include a contribution to your travel and fieldwork expenses. If a studentship is advertised as '1+3' this indicates that the funding is for a Master's award and a PhD. If the studentship is advertised as '+3' this indicates the funding is for a PhD only. Studentships may be funded by a university, a charity, a company or a UK Research Council. Normally, the university that will be supervising the PhD advertises and manages applications for the studentship.

### Masters' studentships

Masters' studentships are normally funded by an academic school or institute at a university, or by a UK Research Council. Depending on the scheme and the eligibility criteria, the studentship may cover fees and a living allowance or it may provide partial funding only. You should contact the university offering the studentship for details of how to apply.

### International scholarships

There is a range of scholarship schemes for international students that provide full or partial funding. Some of these are provided by Newcastle University and some are provided by external organisations. Useful guides for international funding are available on the Newcastle University and British Council websites (see page 19).

### Awards, prizes and bursaries

Specific awards and prizes are available for selected programmes. The value of these awards can vary greatly but most are worth £500 or more.



## Applying for funding

All of the funding types listed on page 16 provide financial support which, providing you meet their terms and conditions, does not need to be paid back. Consequently, there is a lot of competition and your application has to be outstanding if you are to make the final shortlist. Before you apply for funding you should always:

- Check what funding is available. Different schemes offer different levels of support.
- Read the eligibility criteria. Your country of residence, academic qualifications and intended postgraduate study will affect whether you are eligible to apply.
- Read the application guidelines. Each funding source has its own preferred application process.
- Adhere to closing dates. The deadline for funding applications can be very early in the academic year and most funding bodies will stipulate that you should hold at least a conditional offer of a place to study before you apply to them.

## Other financial support

### Discounts

At Newcastle we offer a two per cent fees discount to students who pay their tuition fees in full before or at the time of Registration. We also offer a 10 per cent Alumni Tuition Fee Discount on most of our courses for people who have previously studied at Newcastle University and meet the relevant criteria. International Family Discounts are also provided for relatives of international students who meet the relevant criteria. They are available for each year of study and are worth 10 per cent of tuition fees.

Our accommodation service also offers a two per cent discount to students who take a place in University accommodation and pay the full year's rent within one week of the start of the contract.

### Part-time work

Research degree students are often paid to do marking, demonstrating (science/engineering subjects) and assisting with lecturing and tutorials. In addition, our Careers Service's Vacancies Online database enables you to search for current part-time, temporary and vacation job opportunities. However, if you are planning to undertake part-time work please be careful that your work commitments do not detract from your studies.



### Employer support

If your studies are closely related to the work you do, your employer may provide some assistance. For example, they may pay some or all of your tuition fees.

### Loans

A large number of postgraduate students take out a loan to pay for part or all of their studies. Please remember that you will be charged interest on the amount you have borrowed and you will need to pay the money back. There are many different loans available but two of the more well-known schemes for postgraduate students are:

- Professional and Career Development Loans. These are provided by Barclays, The Co-operative Bank and The Royal Bank of Scotland and you can borrow up to £10,000. For more information, please see [www.direct.gov.uk/pcdl](http://www.direct.gov.uk/pcdl)
- MBA Loan Scheme. The Association of MBAs and NatWest offer a loan scheme for MBA students. For more information, please see <http://mbaguide.mbaworld.com/content/mbaloan>

Student Loans, which are available to undergraduate students, are not available to most postgraduate students. The only postgraduate students who may access Student Loans are students undertaking an eligible course of Initial Teacher Training (ITT), such as the PGCE.

### Funding for students with disabilities

Disabled Students' Allowances (DSAs) are provided by the government to some UK full- and part-time postgraduates as well as distance-learning students on recognised programmes. Part-time students must study at least 50 per cent of a full-time programme. The DSAs help to meet extra costs you may have in attending your programme of study as a direct result of your disability. These cover specialist equipment, non-medical helpers and other expenditure incurred as a result of being a disabled student.

There is no age limit for eligibility for DSAs, and the awards are not means-tested. However if you receive an award from other funders, for example the UK Research Councils or a similar body, which already includes provision for additional support equivalent to a DSA, then you will not be eligible for a DSA under this scheme.

### Funding for students with children

At Newcastle, our Student Wellbeing Service can provide information about the financial support available to help with some of your childcare costs. Sources of financial support vary according to your status, your course and your family circumstances, so please contact us well in advance to find out what you may be eligible for.

“After my undergraduate degree I took a year off and worked in customer service to pay for my year in Newcastle. I was also pleased to receive a Faculty of Medical Sciences MRes International Scholarship from Newcastle University.

I enjoy living in Newcastle. The city is incredibly friendly and safe and it's much cheaper in comparison to the rest of the UK. Living here has also given me the opportunity to experience not only British culture but also to travel cheaply around Europe.”

**Jessica, MRes Medical and Molecular Biosciences (Neuroscience)**



# Visiting Newcastle University



## University Postgraduate Open Days

Our Open Days are a great way to meet our staff and current postgraduate students, discuss your study options and see the campus. For more information please see: [www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/visit/open](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/visit/open)

### Open Day dates

Wednesday 18 November 2009

Friday 19 February 2010

## Institute and school open days

Throughout the year, some research institutes and academic schools run their own open days and evenings. These enable you to meet academics and current postgraduate students, find out more about their postgraduate provision and view their facilities. Please contact your prospective school for further information.

## International students

International students are welcome to visit throughout the year. Please contact the International Office at least three weeks prior to your visit and they will make arrangements for you to tour campus and visit subject areas.

## Travelling to Newcastle

Newcastle has excellent transport links with major cities throughout the UK and abroad, whether you intend to travel by rail, coach, road or air. The city is compact and the Tyne and Wear Metro system and extensive bus networks make it easy to get around. For more information see: [www.ncl.ac.uk/travel/info](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/travel/info)

# Useful links and contacts at Newcastle

## Taught programmes and research degrees

Online Postgraduate Prospectus  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate)

Postgraduate Prospectus request form  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/requests](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/requests)

Academic schools  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/subjects/schools](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/subjects/schools)

Research institutes  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/research/directory](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/research/directory)

Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2008  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/research/rae](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/research/rae)

Key dates in the University calendar  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/business\\_diary](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/business_diary)

## How to apply

Newcastle application form and application guidelines  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply)

Graduate schools  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/graduate\\_schools](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/apply/graduate_schools)

## Funding and finance

Funding database  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/guide](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/guide)

Financial support  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance)

Financial support for students with children  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/funding/ukstudents](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/funding/ukstudents)  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/funding/nonukstudents](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/funding/nonukstudents)

International scholarships  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/finance/awards](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/finance/awards)  
[www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies](http://www.britishcouncil.org/learning-funding-your-studies)

## International students

International Office  
Telephone: +44 (0) 191 222 6856  
Fax: +44 (0) 191 222 8667  
E-mail: [international.office@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:international.office@ncl.ac.uk)  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/international](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international)

English language requirements and training  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/requirements](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/postgraduate/international/requirements)

International Student Handbook  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/international/about/download.htm](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/international/about/download.htm)

## Students with disabilities

[www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/disability-support](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/disability-support)

We can provide details on any of our programmes and more general postgraduate information (including this brochure) in alternative formats such as text, Braille and audiotape. Please contact the Enquiries Service (see below) for more details.

## Services

Accommodation  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/accommodation)

Careers Service  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/careers](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/careers)

Pre-arrival and registration  
[www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pre-arrival)

## Newcastle upon Tyne

Information about the city  
[www.visitnewcastlehead.com](http://www.visitnewcastlehead.com)

## Enquiries

Enquiries Service  
Telephone: +44 (0) 191 222 5594  
Fax: +44 (0) 191 222 8685  
Enquire online: [www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries)





**THE QUEEN'S  
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES**

FOR HIGHER AND FURTHER EDUCATION

2005

Newcastle University  
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU  
United Kingdom

[www.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.ncl.ac.uk)

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