



## Information for self-financing postgraduates

If you are intending to undertake postgraduate study it is important to think about how you will fund your studies. As a general guide we would recommend that single UK postgraduates would need to have between **£8,700 and £9,450** in place to cover their living costs for one year and single international and non-UK EU students would need to have between **£9,250 and £9950** to cover their living costs for a year. This is in addition to the money needed to cover the cost of tuition fees.

### Sources of Funding

There are very few postgraduate courses which attract statutory funding and there are limited sources of funding available to postgraduate students. Obtaining postgraduate funding to cover the cost of your studies can be very competitive and only a lucky few secure a funded place which offers a scholarship, bursary or studentship to cover the cost of tuition fees and living costs for their PhD or Masters. Due to the limited and competitive nature of postgraduate funding many postgraduate students may be required to self-finance their studies.

### Professional and Career Development Loans

Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDL's) are bank loans to help individuals to pay for learning that will improve their skills for work. These loans are available through an arrangement with Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and participating high street banks. Currently Barclays Bank and the Co-operative Bank participate in this scheme. Learners can borrow between £300 and £10,000 to help cover tuition fees, course costs and living costs for two years or three years if this includes one year of work experience.

To be eligible to apply for a PCDL learners must be:

- aged 18 years old or over at the point of application
- 'settled' in the UK, and been ordinarily resident in the UK for at least the three years prior to the start of their course
- intending to work in the UK, the EU or the EEA (European Economic Area) when the course finishes.

Repayments commence one month after completing the course of study whether you are in employment or not. PCDL's do accrue interest and at present participating banks are offering a reduced rate of 9.9% per annum, equivalent to a typical APR of 5-6% over the lifetime of the loan. However, interest rates may vary from bank to bank.

For more information about PCDL's and to request and application pack call: 0800 585 505 or see [www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning](http://www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning)

## Charity and Trust Funding

There are many external charities, trusts and professional organisations which may be able to provide some funding to assist postgraduate students. The eligibility criteria, application process and value of awards can vary enormously between these organisations and it can be a time-consuming exercise to locate potential charities and trusts which you are eligible to apply to for funding. Awards from such organisations tend to be small and are unlikely to exceed £1,000 so it is not likely that a postgraduate student will obtain the level of funding to cover all of their costs from one organisation. It is, however, possible to build up a portfolio of awards from a number of organisations and once you have completed one application for funding it can easily be amended to apply for funding from other organisations.

Locating potential charities and trusts that you are eligible to apply to can seem like a daunting task. The following information might help:

### Online Searches:

- Turn2us: [www.turn2us.org.uk](http://www.turn2us.org.uk)
- Benevolence Today: [www.benevolencetoday.org](http://www.benevolencetoday.org)
- Grants for Individuals: [www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk](http://www.grantsforindividuals.org.uk)
- Uni Grants: [www.unigrants.co.uk](http://www.unigrants.co.uk)
- Funderfinder: [www.funderfinder.org](http://www.funderfinder.org)
- Scholarship Search: [www.scholarship-search.co.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.co.uk)
- Association of Charitable Foundations: [www.acf.org.uk](http://www.acf.org.uk)
- Guidestar: [www.guidestar.org.uk](http://www.guidestar.org.uk)
- Charity Choice: [www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk)

### Funding Publications

There are many funding directories available such as the Grants Register, the Directory of Grant Making Trusts and the Educational Grants Directory which are updated annually. Most local libraries have copies of such publications and copies can also be found in the Robinson Library, level 2 quick reference section 378.3 GRA.

### Further Information (Student Financial Support Team)

**Web:** [www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/wellbeing/finance/)

**Tel:** 0191 208 3333

### Web enquiry forms:

Current students: <https://my.ncl.ac.uk/students/contact>

Prospective students: <http://ncl.ac.uk/enquiries/>