



# Funding for postgraduate students

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# Funding postgraduate study

- Professional and Career Development Loans
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- Sponsorship
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# Professional and Career Development Loans

- A Professional and Career Development Loan is a bank loan available to help you undertake study that would boost your job prospects.
- Different from a normal high street bank loan - the government will pay the interest whilst you are studying and for a further month afterwards.
- Only available to home students (over 18) who intend to work in the UK/EU/EEA after their course.
- You can borrow between £300 and £10,000.
- The loans grows with interest, however interest can vary between banks.
- The loan must be repaid.
- Learn more at [www.gov.uk/career-development-loans](http://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans)

# Part-time employment

- The **Job Zone** and **Worklink** at the Guild can help you find employment.
- The University offers a small number of places on the paid Student Mentor Scheme.
- Students may also have the opportunity to take up paid teaching positions within their department.
- Universities are supportive of your need to work but you must get the balance right.

# Sponsorship

- Sponsorship is offered by a range of companies to individual students
- The amounts, eligibility and terms of the sponsorship vary immensely.
- Sponsorship is normally non repayable but will require the individual to fulfil certain requirements after their studies.
- Charities are often able to make a non repayable contribution to assist postgraduates.
- Various publications and the web can help you secure funding:
  - [www.ukcisa.org.uk](http://www.ukcisa.org.uk)
  - <http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk/>

# Scholarships from the University

- Scholarships reward academic excellence. They are given as non-repayable awards.
- Scholarships are available centrally, and through schools and departments.
- Many scholarships assist with tuition fees but some may also contribute towards living costs.
- Competition is intense and students must be aware of deadlines.
- Each scholarship will have its own criteria and duration. Selection is usually based on academic excellence.
- Found out more at:

[www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/postgraduate/scholarships](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/postgraduate/scholarships)



# Research Councils

- Seven UK Research Councils covering all academic areas
- Funding available for PhD study, and some Masters level study, depending on area
- Almost exclusively available to UK and EU students
- Different processes of application/nomination for each Research Council

# Research Councils

- AHRC – centrally managed competition by application (via your online application for a place to study)
- ESRC – centrally managed competition by nomination (via your School/proposed supervisor)
- BBSRC, NERC, STFC, EPSRC and MRC – nominations managed within Schools/Colleges



# Research Councils

- General queries can be sent to  
[rcfunding@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:rcfunding@contacts.bham.ac.uk)
- Come and speak to me today at the University  
Graduate School stand in the Great Hall



# Financial Hardship

- The University recognises that despite the best planning students may experience financial hardship.
- There are several funds available to help you on a temporary basis:
  - Access to Learning Fund (ALF) : **Home students**
  - International Hardship Fund : **International students**
    - **Students should talk to the International Student Advisory Service (ISAS) in the first instance.**
- Awards given from these sources are normally non-repayable.

# Access to Learning Fund

- Provided to universities by the Government to assist home students (full-time and part-time) who are facing exceptional financial hardship or unexpected difficulties.
- Administered and means-tested by the Student Funding Office.
- Awards made from ALF are offered as grants and do not have to be repaid.
- You will have to demonstrate that you have made adequate provision for your studies.
- More information and an application form can be found at:

[www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/alf](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/alf)



# Sources of advice

- [www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study](http://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study)
- [www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/postgraduate](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/postgraduate)
- [www.rcuk.ac.uk](http://www.rcuk.ac.uk)
- [www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateschool](http://www.intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/graduateschool)
- [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)

