

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM



# Funding for postgraduate students

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# Funding postgraduate study

- ❑ Professional and Career Development Loans
- ❑ Part-time employment
- ❑ Sponsorship
- ❑ Scholarships from the University
- ❑ Research Councils
- ❑ Financial hardship
  - International Hardship Fund
  - Access to Learning Fund
- ❑ Sources of advice



# 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.
- ❑ Scholarship 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)

