



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

STUDENT
SERVICES

Postgraduate Money Matters

A financial guide for new
UK/EU taught postgraduate
students 2020–21



www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfinance



Postgraduate funding

There are many different avenues of funding open to postgraduate students at Birmingham. You will need to put some time into researching the different types of funding available and be prepared to meet any application deadlines.

SEARCH FOR FUNDING

The variety of funding options available to postgraduate students can be bewildering, so we have developed an online funding database to help you find the funding opportunities that best suit you.

The database contains a range of scholarships, from University-wide competitions to subject-specific awards. It also includes awards granted by charities and trusts.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgfunding

MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS

We are offering 50 awards of £2,000 to support the brightest and best applicants wishing to undertake Masters study at the University during 2020–21. The deadline for applying is Thursday 30 April 2020. You will need to have made an application to study at the University before you can apply for a scholarship.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/bas

TEACHER TRAINING

The Department for Education is offering UK and EU applicants tax-free bursaries and scholarships of up to £28,000, depending on your qualifications and the subject that you plan to teach.

UK and EU students can apply for an undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan from the Student Loans Company. UK students can also apply for a Maintenance Loan.

getintoteaching.education.gov.uk

MEDICINE

English graduate-entry medicine students can apply for a partial undergraduate Tuition Fee Loan and a Maintenance Loan. You will need to cover £3,465 of your tuition in Year 1 yourself, but for Years 2–4 the NHS will fund £3,715 of your fees. The Year 1 Maintenance Loan is means tested, but in Years 2–4 you can receive a £1,000 non-means-tested NHS grant, up to a £2,324 Maintenance Loan and a means-tested NHS bursary of up to £2,643.

nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-bursary-students

Postgraduate Masters loan

English and EU students looking to pursue a Masters programme in the UK can apply for a non-means-tested loan of up to £10,906 from the British government via the Student Loans Company (SLC)*. The loan is paid directly to you.

Key information

- The loan will be available to students across all subject areas for full-time, part-time and distance learning Masters programmes.
- Part-time programmes lasting two to four years are eligible, so long as they are no more than twice the length of the equivalent full-time course. Where no equivalent full-time course exists, part-time programmes can be up to three years in duration.
- You must be studying a standalone Masters course – integrated Masters programmes are covered by the undergraduate loan system.
- The loan will be paid directly to you, into a UK bank account.

Eligibility

- Available to students under the age of 60 when they commence their programme
- Available to UK nationals (and individuals with settled status in the UK) who have been ordinarily resident in the UK and Islands for three years by the first day of their course
- Available to EU students without the UK residency requirements given above
- Students who already hold a Masters qualification (or an equivalent or higher qualification) will not be eligible for the loan
- Distance learning applicants must live in England

**Figure for 2019 entry (2020 rate to be confirmed). Different levels of support are available for Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Some programmes, eg Physiotherapy (pre-registration) MSc, fall under the undergraduate loan system. Please see the website for details.*

How to apply

You apply for the Postgraduate Masters Loan directly to the SLC. We recommend that you apply for your Masters programme before applying for your loan as you will need to confirm your course name as part of the application. Visit our website for further guidance: www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgl

Repayment

- Interest will accrue at a rate of RPI + 3%
- Repayments will start to become due in April following the academic year in which the course is completed
- The repayment amount will be 6% of income above the repayment threshold (£21,000)
- Any outstanding balance will be written off after the 30th anniversary of the date that the repayments became due

DON'T FORGET

Repayments will be made concurrently with any other student loan repayments due. If you are repaying both an undergraduate and a postgraduate loan, you will have a 15% (UG 9% and PG 6%) total deduction taken from your salary above the repayment thresholds.



LEARN MORE

View the latest funding information, including for UK students who are not ordinarily resident in England: www.gov.uk/masters-loan

FEES AND LIVING COSTS

- Tuition fees will vary depending on your chosen course. Please check our online course listings for details: www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgstudy
- It costs an average of £180 a week to live as a postgraduate student. This figure includes accommodation, utilities, food, transport, study expenses and general living costs. The amount that you spend will depend on your lifestyle choices. Visit our website for tips and resources to help you to budget effectively.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/budgeting

PART-TIME WORK

- Most postgraduates undertake part-time work alongside their studies to help towards living costs. The University recommends that full-time postgraduates do not work for more than 15 hours a week.
- Guild Jobs promotes employment opportunities on offer with reputable local employers who understand that your working hours must remain flexible in order to fit in with the requirements of your course. Worklink is also based at the Guild of Students and matches students to on-campus casual work at the University.

www.birmingham.ac.uk/pgwork

HELP AND SUPPORT

If you need any further information about funding, the Funding, Graduation and Awards team will be happy to help you: ✉ fga@contacts.bham.ac.uk 🐦 [@uobfga](https://twitter.com/uobfga) 📷 [@uobfundingandawards](https://www.instagram.com/uobfundingandawards)



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston, Birmingham,
B15 2TT, United Kingdom
www.birmingham.ac.uk

This leaflet was written several months in advance of the start of the academic year. It is intended to provide prospective students with a general picture of the types of funding that may be available to help finance their studies. All figures are subject to government approval and may change.

Designed and printed by

UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM

creativemedia