

Postgraduate Funding

Career Development Loans

The UK government offers career development Loans, which can fund postgraduate study to UK students for vocational education or training. Application packs are available by calling 0800 585505 or from the university's Careers service on +44 (0)1752 587450.

Graduate Loans

Most major UK banks offer graduate loan packages. These can be compared and applied for at www.money.facts.co.uk Interest rates are typically slightly more favourable than standard bank loans, but all applicants must have a satisfactory credit history.

The Access to Learning Fund (ALF)

Home postgraduate students (both full and part time) are eligible to apply to this fund – awards are means tested and non-repayable. This is a hardship fund and any assistance should be seen as a top up to other support rather than an income in itself. In view of this a weekly income of £145 is assumed for all postgraduates (£115 for those with dependants) in accordance with government directives. Applicants must have applied for any other available assistance in order to be considered for help. Please note that the ALF does not pay tuition fees. Forms are available from the Student Funding Unit or by calling 01752 587680.

University Scholarships

We offer a range of scholarship opportunities for prospective students who have applied for either a taught masters programme or a research degree at MPhil/PHD level. Applications from non-UK/EU students are welcome with the expectation that they secure funds to meet any difference in fee level.

For more information on scholarships and application procedure visit:

www.plymouth.ac.uk/money

Trusts and charities

Some trusts and charities may be able to contribute to the costs of postgraduate research. Useful publications such as Awards Almanac, the Educational Grants Directory and the Grants Register are available in both libraries and careers offices.

Advanced taught programme and research studentships

The main source of financial support for full-time UK postgraduate students is in the form of studentships offered by research councils and funding bodies. To be eligible you should normally be a UK citizen and expect to have obtained a first or upper second-class honours degree. The main funding bodies are: Arts and Humanities Research Council; Biotechnology and Biological sciences Research Council; Council of the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils; Economic and Social Research Council; Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council; Medical Research Council; Natural Environment Research Council and the Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council.

Applications cannot be made directly to a research council. You should check with the department/school to which you are applying whether any such awards are available. These studentships cover tuition fees and a maintenance grant. EU students may apply for fees only.

Employer sponsorship

Many employers sponsor employees as part of their career development. Candidates who are in employment should consider asking their employers whether they can assist with the funding of postgraduate study.

Overseas Research Students Awards scheme

Applications and info from the Graduate School email graduateschool@plymouth.ac.uk or call 01752 587630.

European Social Fund ESF

Some taught postgraduate programmes may attract a limited number of ESF places. Contact your programme co-ordinator.

British Council Awards

The British Council offers a number of awards for international students studying in the UK details can be obtained from www.britishcouncil.org

Useful links...

www.prospects.ac.uk information on all aspects of support for postgraduate study
www.direct.gov.uk/cdl career development loans Helpline number 0800 585 505