

Funding for Postgraduates

This leaflet is for students studying a postgraduate course, including Masters and Doctorates.

Postgraduate Loan - For a postgraduate masters degree

Delivered by Student Loans Company to students studying a Masters level degree
<p><u>You'll get</u></p> <p>Up to £10,609 for all costs (including tuition fees and living costs) and is paid directly to you for students starting their course after the 1st August 2018</p> <p>Up to £10,280 for students starting their course from 1st August 2017</p> <p>The loan will be paid in 3 instalments of 33%, 33% and 34% each year</p>
Not based on your income or your family's income (non-means tested)
<p><u>Eligibility</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot be given to someone with an equivalent level degree e.g. already have a Masters • Under 60 on the first day of your course • Available to students from the UK, EU or have settled status
The repayment rate is 6% of your income over £21,000, which is usually reduced from your wage slip
Apply online at www.gov.uk/postgraduate-loan

Doctoral Loan - for a postgraduate research degree

Delivered by Student Loans Company to students undertaking a postgraduate doctoral research or taught project
<p><u>You'll get</u></p> <p>Up to £25,000 for the length of your course</p> <p>The loan will be paid in 3 instalments of 33%, 33% and 34% each year</p>
Not based on your income or your family's income (non-means tested)

Eligibility

- Be a full standalone doctoral course (not a top-up)
- Start after 1st August 2018 and the course last between 3 and 8 academic years
- Under 60 on the first day of your course
- Be a UK or EU national or have ‘settled status’ and you have lived in the UK for 3 years before starting your course
- If an EU national be living in the UK on the first day of your course and lived in an EU country or Switzerland for the past 3 years.
- Students receiving support from a Research Council (studentships, stipends, scholarships and tuition fee support), who already have a doctoral degree or equivalent level or are behind on payments to Student Loans Company are **NOT** eligible for the doctoral loan.

Repayment is 6% of your income over £21,000, which is usually reduced from your wage slip
You’ll need to repay your Doctoral Loan at the time as any other student loans you have

Apply online from summer 2018 at <https://www.gov.uk/doctoral-loan>

Professional Career and Development Loan - For a postgraduate master’s degree

Bank loan to help pay for the cost of a degree which furthers your development and/or career.

Between £300 and £10,000 is available to borrow

Not means tested but you cannot have been declared bankrupt, have any county court judgments or defaulted on a credit agreement in the past 6 years

Eligibility

- Be a UK citizen, have settled status or have been ordinarily been in the UK for the 3 years previous to your course
- Over 18
- Plan to work in the UK or EEA country after your course finishes
- Be able to not finance your course by your own means

Repayment

- You start repaying your loan one month after your course finishes
- The Government will pay the interest whilst you are on your course
- Fixed monthly repayments for 1-5 years after your course finishes

Currently only the Co-op bank is offering this loan

Sponsorships and Scholarships - For all postgraduates

Offered by Universities, Governments and employers. This funding type is usually offered prior to starting your course.

This can include full or partial payment of tuition fees and grants for living costs.

Look on the Reading University Fees and Funding website - www.reading.ac.uk/ready-to-study/study/fees-and-funding.aspx for Reading University Funds.

Also speak to your department - they may have specific scholarships or funds for students.

See below websites which might offer postgraduate funding:

- www.scholarship-search.org.uk - for all students
- www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk - for all students
- study-uk.britishcouncil.org British Council - for international students
- www.ukri.org UK Research and Innovation - for all students
- www.iefa.org/scholarships International Financial Aid - for international students
- cscuk.dfid.gov.uk - Commonwealth Scholarships
- www.findamasters.com/funding/ - for all students

Charities and Alternative Funding - For all postgraduates

A number of charities award grants to students to help fund tuition fees and living costs. An example is www.turn2us.org.uk who offers a grant search facility.

The Alternative Guide is an online resource to other funding opportunities. It offers a comprehensive guide to funding streams and a range of tools to help you prepare grant applications.

To access the Alternative Guide you log in via the gate at www.postgraduate-funding.com using your Reading University account details. If you are not currently a student at the University of Reading please contact pgadmissions@reading.ac.uk for login details

Benefits

Most full-time students are not eligible to claim welfare benefits. However students may be eligible to claim some benefits depending on their situation. There are strict eligibility rules so please refer to www.gov.uk/benefits for more information.

Situation	Possible benefit available
Students with Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Benefit • Child Tax Credit (for students with low income) • Working Tax Credits (lone parent with low income) • Job Seekers Allowance (in vacation period only) • Income Support (Lone parent with a child under 5)
Students with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Independence Payment (PIP) • Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) • Working Tax Credits • Housing Benefit
Student families on low income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing Benefit

- Council Tax Reduction

Please note that if you live in Reading, Wokingham or West Berkshire and want to claim Income Support, Child Tax Credits, Working Tax Credits, Income related ESA, Income related JSA or Housing Benefit then you will need to make a claim for Universal Credit, which has replaced these benefits (see - <https://www.gov.uk/universal-credit>).

If you would like further advice or to speak with somebody in person then a Students' Union Adviser may be able to help. The specialist advisers offer a confidential service, independent from the University so they can discuss your case with you in private.

Contact us by email at advice@rusu.co.uk, or visit us in the RUSU building.

You can book an appointment or attend a drop-in session. Drop in runs in term time on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday (11.00am-1.30pm) and Wednesday (2pm-4.30pm)