

## Postgraduate (PG) Funding

### What costs will I need to consider before starting a postgraduate qualification?

1) Tuition Fees – the amount of tuition fees you will pay depends on several factors – what you are studying, whether you are a Home or International student, the duration of your study and more. Remember that tuition fees will need to be paid for each academic year of your course and if you are a PhD student, you will need to pay for your writing up year also. You can pay your tuition fees in full at the start of the year or in 3 equal instalments in September, February and May (if paying by instalments, you will need to open a UK bank account and set up a Direct Debit - you cannot register at the University without having done this). For further information relating to tuition fees, please visit: [www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/tuition-fees/](http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/tuition-fees/)

2) Living Costs – once your tuition fees have been covered, you then need to think about everything else! Accommodation, food, bills, mobile phone, internet and travel costs all need to be factored in when planning to study for a PG qualification. The University publishes a Cost of Living guide each year to give you an idea of these costs in Manchester – please see:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/experience/student-life/living-costs/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/experience/student-life/living-costs/)

The rules relating to UK students and welfare benefits are the same whether you are studying at UG or PG level – for further information, please visit: [www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Full-time-students-and-benefits/](http://www.turn2us.org.uk/Benefit-guides/Full-time-students-and-benefits/)

Our other factsheets in this series provide further advice and assistance in relation to the above—including advice on how to budget your money well:

[www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/](http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/)

Please note it is important that you do not commence a course without having made adequate provision for both tuition fees and living costs.

### How can I meet these costs?

There are many alternatives to funding a postgraduate qualification and this guide aims to outline many of these for your consideration (if you are a PGCE or MA Social Work student, please see the relevant factsheets in our A-Z series instead). Ideally you should begin researching your options 12-18 months in advance and start applying for funding 6-12 months before your course begins (however, if you experience unforeseen financial difficulties once you have commenced your studies, it is usually still possible to apply

for funding).

### Government Postgraduate (Masters) Loans Scheme

Please find below a summary of the Government's PG Loans Scheme:

- Up to £11,222 for the 2020/21 academic year.
- Taught and Research Masters only (including MBA) - does not include Diploma studies.
- Available to full-time, part-time (at least 50% of a full-time course) and Distance Learners.
- The loan is considered to be a contribution towards the costs of PG study and is not available if you already have a Masters qualification.
- PG funding is considered a devolved matter therefore for students applying for funding from the Scottish government, please visit [www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-scotland.aspx](http://www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-scotland.aspx), for students from Wales visit [www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-wales.aspx](http://www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-wales.aspx) and for Northern Ireland visit <https://www.findamasters.com/funding/guides/postgraduate-loans-northern-ireland.aspx>.
- You will follow the same repayment scheme as undergraduate Student Finance loans (the Income Contingent scheme) with repayments beginning 6th April following the academic year that the course is completed (you can make voluntary payments before if you wish). Repayments will be made concurrently with UG loans at a rate of 6% of everything you earn over £21,000.
- Interest will be RPI + 3%.
- Age limit: 60 or under.
- Payments are made in three instalments throughout the academic year—33%/33%/34%
- EU students may be able to apply for these loans subject to having been resident in England for at least 3 years prior to the start of your PG course (periods of residency which are purely for the purpose of education will not count towards this 3 year requirement).

For more information, visit:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/uk-eu-student-advice/postgraduate-loans-pgl/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/uk-eu-student-advice/postgraduate-loans-pgl/)

### Government Postgraduate Loans Scheme

The government offers doctoral loans of up to £26,445 for PhD programmes, to help with living costs and fees. It is paid in three instalments each year.

To qualify you must:

- Be under 60
- Studying a stand-alone doctoral course which lasts from 3 to 8 academic years
- Have started on or after 1 August 2018

For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/doctoral->

[loan](#)

### **Studentships**

Visit [www.jobs.ac.uk](http://www.jobs.ac.uk) to search for studentships, both for Masters and PhD qualifications. Studentships usually offer an annual salary in return for your research into a specific project.

### **Self-funding**

Many PG students fund their studies through a combination of savings (either their own or via help from family members) and part-time work. You may wish to consider the option of taking a year out before your studies in order to work and save some money and then work part-time alongside your studies to keep this ticking over. The University's Careers Service can help you to find both full-time and part-time work – for further information please visit:

[www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/)

### **Residential Life Adviser Employment**

The University employs many postgraduate students to work in its Halls of Residence as Residential Life Advisers. Using your own experience of University life, you will be required to work in a team providing pastoral support and guidance to residents (which also sometimes includes matters of a disciplinary nature). In return you will be provided with accommodation paid for by the University in the Hall itself. You also do not have to pay for any bills (i.e. electricity, water, internet access) however if you obtain a position in a catered Hall of Residence, you will have to pay for your food.

Recruitment usually takes place a Christmas, Easter and over the Summer and you can find out more information here:

<http://www.accommodation.manchester.ac.uk/applynow/>

### **Teaching Assistant Employment/Tutoring**

If you are a PhD student, check with your department if they have any teaching assistant vacancies – you can also apply for these positions at other local Universities. The Manchester Leadership programme also offers opportunities for e-tutors – further information can be found on the Careers website:

[www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/](http://www.careers.manchester.ac.uk/)

### **Are there any other sources of funding?**

#### *Manchester Master's Bursary*

The University offers 75 bursaries for master's students, each worth £4,000 in funding, to UK and EU students who will be starting taught or research master's courses. Applications are closed for the 20/21 academic year, although details will be released in due course for those starting in September 2021. For more information visit: [www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/uk-eu-student-advice/masters-bursary/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/funding/uk-eu-student-advice/masters-bursary/)

#### *School of Study*

As a first stop, we would advise you to contact your School of study. If they do not offer any funding options themselves, they may know about specific external organisations who

can offer support. Your School will also be able to advise you about any tuition fee discounts (sometimes known as a Loyalty Bursary).

#### *Funding Opportunities Database*

We have compiled a database of current funding opportunities which are available at the University (and externally). To explore the variety of options, please visit: : [www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/](http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/)

This includes current Research Council funding opportunities and information regarding the President's Scholarship. If you are considering a different University, they will usually have details of their funding opportunities on their website.

#### *Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding*

The University also subscribes to The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding publication as a source of information regarding alternative ways to fund your studies.

Written by students who have been through the process of applying for funding themselves (securing over £45,000 in the process), The Alternative Guide and is available free of charge for all current and prospective students (regardless of study level and nationality).

The advisory section of the guide concentrates on how to make a strong application and gives information about writing a winning supporting statement. The remainder of the guide contains contact details of hundreds of charities, grant making trusts and educational trusts located in an easy to use, intuitive funding database.

You can either download the guide in PDF form or access the online version in order to use the interactive database. Further information is available at:

[www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/alternative-sources/](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-research/funding/alternative-sources/)

#### *Turn 2 Us - Grants Section*

Turn 2 Us is a charitable group which helps people to access a range of financial support. The Grants Section of their website allows you to put in as many (or as little!) details about yourself into a search engine which will then produce a list of organisations you could apply for funding to. Use this in conjunction with guidance found in the Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding to make a winning funding application:

<http://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk/>

#### *Other Search Engines:*

- [www.unigrants.co.uk](http://www.unigrants.co.uk)
- [www.charitychoice.co.uk](http://www.charitychoice.co.uk)
- [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)

#### *Tips when applying for funding:*

- Ensure that any funds are awarded on the basis that they will be renewed annually.
- It is also in your (potential) supervisor's interest to help you to secure funding – don't be afraid to ask them for help in making applications and really sell your ideas to them!
- Don't pin all your hopes on one source of funding – apply to as

many organisations as possible (even the most obscure ones!). You may not receive one large award however you could receive several smaller awards (the average award per organisation is £500).

- Network current PG students and ask them how they secured funding
- Don't be daunted – securing funding will likely involve a lot of work on your part however we have had many success stories!
- If you are in receipt of a University scholarship/stipend, payments are usually due on the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month. Set any Direct Debits up for the 2<sup>nd</sup> onwards just in case there are any problems!
- Bank details entered at the time of registration are only for tuition fees – not for the payment of awards. This information will need to be entered separately - To enter your bank details, please go to: <https://my.manchester.ac.uk/> > Tools > Student System > Campus Finances > View Financial Aid
- If you entered your bank details as a UG student, these will remain on the system

### Sponsorship

If postgraduate study would improve your work performance, your employer may consider sponsoring you to study either full-time or part-time.

Further advice can be found at: [www.prospects.ac.uk/funding\\_postgraduate\\_study\\_employer\\_sponsorship.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/funding_postgraduate_study_employer_sponsorship.htm)

You may also find sponsorship options via the government or other official agencies in your home country if you are an International/EU student.

### **I have made adequate provision for my course but something unexpected has happened – what can I do?**

University's Living Cost Support Fund can help in situations when despite your best efforts; an unexpected event causes you financial concerns. For further information, please see our Living Cost Support Fund advice:

<http://www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/funding-opportunities/all/living-cost-support-fund/>

Please note that the Living Cost Support Fund cannot pay for tuition fees and should not be viewed as a source of funding for PG study.

**If you have a query which is not answered here, please contact [studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk)**

*We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate however, we cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.*