

## International Student Funding

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

1) Tuition Fees – the amount of tuition fees you will pay depends on several factors – what you are studying, the level and 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, January and April (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 (including fee status assessments), 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'll then need to think about everything else! Accommodation, food, bills, mobile phone, internet and travel costs all need to be factored in when planning for your studies. 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/)

Our other factsheets in this series provide further advice and assistance in relation to the above. These can be found at:

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

It is important that you do not commence a course without having made adequate provision for both tuition fees and living costs (furthermore, University places are generally offered subject to having a funding plan in place).

### How can I meet these costs?

There are many options to funding a qualification at the University of Manchester and this guide aims to outline many of these for your consideration. 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 find that you are experiencing unforeseen financial difficulties once you have commenced your studies, it is usually still possible to apply for funding).

#### Self-funding

Many students fund their studies through a combination of savings (either their own or via help from family members) and part-time work (please bear in mind any visa regulation

requirements). 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 mature or 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:

<https://www.residents.manchester.ac.uk/reslife/join-reslife/>

#### Teaching Assistant Employment/Tutoring

If you are a PhD student, check with your department if they have any teaching assistant vacancies – you could 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?

##### School of Study (UG and PG)

As a first stop, we would advise you to contact your School of study to enquire about any subject or discipline-specific scholarships they may offer. 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

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/)

*Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding (applies to Undergraduate and Postgraduate students!)*

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

Don't be put off by the title if you are an undergraduate student however! The Alternative Guide provides details of funding sources which apply regardless of your study level and nationality.

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.

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 (regardless of your level of study) 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.

To access the Turn 2 Us grants search, please visit:

<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:*

- *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!*
- *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).*

- *It will involve a lot of work on your part however we have had success stories!*

#### *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.

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

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

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

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

*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.*