

Discover Postgrad TAUGHT STUDY AND YOU



Discover Postgrad Taught Study: The Basics

Elizabeth Wilkinson

Careers Consultant (Postgraduates)

Today's seminar/webinar

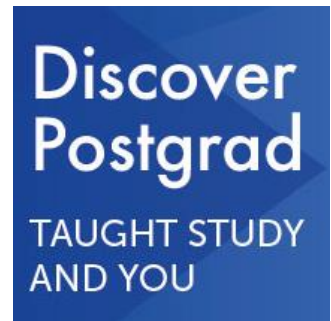
Logistics

- Session is being recorded and livestreamed
 - Anything you say will be recorded and broadcast!
- Session, including slides
 - Available on Discover Postgrad site from tomorrow
- Questions
 - Live online? Use YouTube chat function
 - In the room? Ask at the end of each section
 - On catch up? Email us your questions

Today's seminar/webinar

What we'll cover

- Taught postgraduate study – the basics
- What do admissions tutors look for? (*Dr David Brown*)
- Funding your taught postgraduate study (*Charlotte Griffiths*)
- What is it really like? (*Q&A with current students*)
- Interested in discovering more about postgraduate study? What next?



Why do it?

Why are you considering taught postgraduate study?

- Because you're passionate about your subject?
- To advance your career/get the job you want?
- Thinking about doing further research?
- You haven't quite decided what you want to do as a career ...

What is Taught Postgraduate study?

Taught Masters (in the UK)

- Generally 1 year (full time) or 2 years (part-time)
- Lecture based, but often with a significant project or dissertation element
- Most commonly called MA or MSc
- Advanced subject content or conversion course
- Assessment may include exams, course assignments, project/dissertation write-up

What is Taught Postgraduate study?

Taught/Research Masters (in the UK)

- Often 1 year (MRes) or 1-2 years (MPhil)
- MRes may include significant lecture content and one or several research projects
- MPhil commonly one long research project

Other UK taught courses

- MBA – best to get management experience first; MSc Management is a better alternative for a new graduate
- LLM (Law), MLitt (similar to MA or MPhil – check!)
- PGCE (Postgraduate Certificate in Education)
- MEng, MSci, MMath – “integrated 4 year Masters”

Applying for taught postgraduate study

When?

- Often no deadlines
- BUT for competitive courses or those with funding – before Christmas

How?

- Normally online and direct to institutions
- UCAS – coordinate applications through UCAS Postgraduate system for a small number of institutions.
- Commonly need – online application form, proof of qualifications, personal statement, referees

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What do PGT tutors look for?

.....

Dr David Brown

Senior Lecturer, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures

Grades in Your Undergraduate Degree

Final classification

- Many master's programmes will specify entry requirements like a first or upper second as entry requirement.
- But remember there might be many applicants for one place. Therefore the better your undergraduate degree the higher your chances of getting accepted.

Grades in Your Undergraduate Degree

Units and Grades in Full Transcript

- Many programme directors will look at the units you have selected in your undergraduate degree. There should be evidence for an interest in the topic you are choosing for your master's degree.
- Make sure that the strongest grades in your undergraduate degree units match the masters degree topic.
- It does not look good if you have too many individual units with grades below the entry requirement even if your average is ok.

References

Pick your referees well

- Many applicants for a master's course might have the same degree classification that you have.
- Good references can make the difference if you get a place or not.
- Make sure that the referee knows you well in an area of study that is relevant to the masters programme you apply for.
- Make sure they can comment on your individual strengths rather than give a very generic reference.

Personal Statements and Interview

Know what you are talking about

- By the time you apply for a master's programme you should be able to discuss a topic from your undergraduate course.
- Prepare to discuss topics you covered in your undergraduate degree. It does not look good if you cannot discuss your final year dissertation a few months after you finish your degree, or cannot remember what texts you read for your final-year exams etc.

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Postgraduate Student Finance

Charlotte Griffiths
Student Funding Team

Postgraduate Student Finance

Tuition fees

- Tuition fees cover the cost of your study and include charges for registration, tuition, supervision, examinations and graduation
- Amount payable depends on multiple factors and varies course to course
- Payment methods: Direct Debit, Cheque, Credit/Debit Card, Western Union, Bank Transfer, Bankers Draft
- Payment in instalments – September, January and April (no discount for payment in full)

Postgraduate Student Finance

Living costs

| Estimated living costs 2018/19 | Postgraduate (52 weeks) |
|---|-------------------------|
| Accommodation (average cost for self-catering halls) | £6,755 |
| Meals (excluding meals out) | £2,025 |
| Clothes (including provision of warm clothing and footwear) | £520 |
| Local transport (excludes travelling home / visiting friends) | £491 |
| Other general living expenses (eg photocopying and printing, laundry, phone calls, consumables, entertainment, sports, cooking equipment etc) | £2,600 |
| Total | £12,391 |

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Postgraduate Student Finance

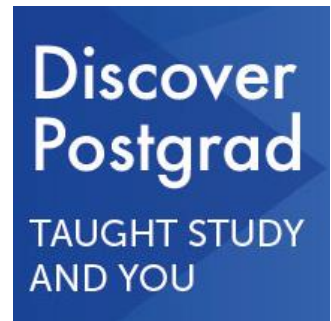
Government loans – key info

- Up to £10,609 per year for 18/19 – 2019/20 figures not yet announced
- Not means tested
- Apply for September 2019 entry from May 2019 onwards
- Contribution towards cost of study
- Paid directly into your bank account

Postgraduate Student Finance

Government loans – eligibility and repayment

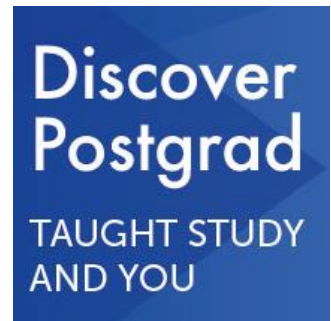
- Available to students from the UK, EU or those with a “settled status”, separate processes for Scotland, Wales, and NI
- Must be on a full, standalone master’s course
- Income contingent repayment at 6% over £21,000, repaid concurrently with UG loan which is 9%
- Interest of RPI +3% from first loan payment
- Further information is available at: bit.ly/UoMloans, or email funding@manchester.ac.uk



Postgraduate Student Finance

Career Development Loans

- Only available through the Co-operative bank, and administered by the Skills Funding Agency
- Funding for 2 years of study (3 with unpaid work placement), of £300 - £10,000, and the interest is paid while you study
- 1 month after completing studies, interest rises to around 10% and repayments begin
- Further information at [gov.uk/career-development-loans](https://www.gov.uk/career-development-loans)



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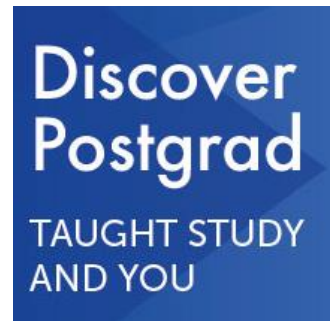
Further Credit Options

- Various private providers students use, can't be endorsed by University
- Overdraft as a top-up/buffer
- Students to conduct own research into alternative sources

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Self-funding and Employment

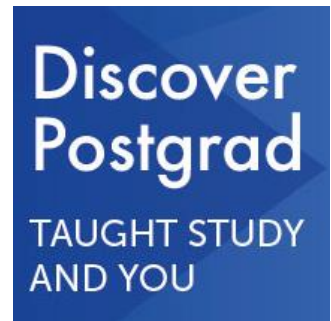
- Self-funding through own savings, or help from family members
- Employment
 - Part-time work e.g. private/freelance tutoring
 - Further Information is available at:
www.careers.manchester.ac.uk
- Sponsorship is another option, speak to your employer if PG study would improve your performance



Postgraduate Student Finance

Other sources of funding

- Go to bit.ly/PGfunding
 - Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding
 - ResLife Advisor employment
- Additional places to search:
 - www.turn2us.org.uk
 - www.findamasters.com
 - www.unigrants.co.uk
 - www.charitychoice.co.uk
 - www.scholarship-search.org.uk



Postgraduate Student Finance

Make the most of your money

- Blackbullion – an interactive financial education tool
- Free to all current and prospective students
- Help with budgeting, bills, career development, and more
- Use code UoMBB, or contact Student Support and Advice
- bit.ly/uom-bb

Postgraduate Student Finance

Thank you for listening, and please feel free to get in touch with Student Support and Advice

- www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk
- The Atrium, 1st floor University Place
- studentsupport@manchester.ac.uk
- 0161 275 3033/3781

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What is it really like? Q&A

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Joanna Sweeney, MSc Social Research Methods and Statistics

Mohammad Akhtar, MSc Biotechnology and Enterprise

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**Interested in discovering more about
postgrad study? What next?**

.....

Elizabeth Wilkinson

Careers Consultant (Postgraduates)

Any questions?

- Please complete your evaluation form
- Sign up to our other Discover Postgrad events:

Alumni Q&A panel session: what could a master's do for you?

- 13th November: School of Biological Sciences
- 21st November: School of Social Sciences
- 22nd November: School of Arts, Languages & Cultures

Mentoring scheme – ongoing

- ... all at www.manchester.ac.uk/discoverpostgrad

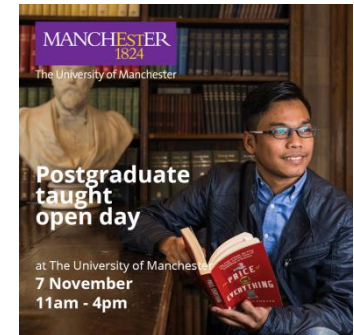
email discoverpostgrad@manchester.ac.uk

Find out more...

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UoM Postgraduate Taught Courses Open Day – 7th November

- University Place and across campus
- For postgraduate study at the University of Manchester
- www.manchester.ac.uk/study/masters/open-days-fairs/open-day



Postgraduate Study Fair – 14th November

- Manchester Central
- For postgraduate study at universities across the UK (including Manchester) and beyond

