

Postgraduate Studies – Funding

Fees

When checking the fees charged by a university make sure that you are looking at the correct category of fees:

- To be charged home fees requires to be an EEA national and have had ordinary residence for at least 3 years in the UK and Islands, or in the EEA, Switzerland, overseas territories and/or Turkey immediately prior to the start of your studies in the UK. In most cases, it is clear whether you have been ordinarily resident in the relevant area. If you are uncertain about the residency rules for entitlement to home fees, please consult the Fees section of the UK Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA) at <http://www.ukcisa.org.uk>
- “Overseas” or “international student” fees are charged to those not meeting the home fee regulations and can range from £7,000 to about £34,000 per year depending on the institution, the level of course and the type of course.

Funding

Postgraduate studies can be funded privately, with a scholarship or grant. Most students combine funding from several different sources to be able to cover their tuition fees and living costs.

If you want to find external funding you should contact universities and award-granting bodies at least one year before you plan to begin your studies! They all have different closing dates for application throughout the year.

A. Funding through British Council Brussels

The Royal Belgian Benevolent Society

The Royal Belgian Benevolent Society (RBBS) in London offers a limited number of small awards to postgraduates of Belgian nationality who wish to study in the UK and have particular difficulty in meeting the costs involved.

The scheme runs every two years (next academic year 2012-13), is flexible, and can provide for varying periods of study from three months to a complete academic year (Please note that the scheme is not aimed at Bachelor's and PhD students). Application forms are available from our website <http://www.britishcouncil.org/brussels-learning-rbbs.htm>

B. Public Funding Bodies

The Research Councils:

The main sources of funding are the Research Councils and the Arts and Humanities Research Board. Students should not apply directly to these bodies, as money is channelled through the universities and college departments. Nevertheless, the Research Council websites do provide information on where the money is going. Students from the European Economic Area are eligible for fee support only and no maintenance allowance. Non-EU students are not eligible for any support from the Research Councils.

a. Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC)

www.bbsrc.ac.uk

Quota Doctoral Training Account studentships (including CASE), targeted Priority Studentships 50 pa, Industrial CASE Partnership Awards, Industrial Case, Masters Studentships.

Programme areas: Agri-food, Animal sciences, Biochemistry and Cell Biology, Biomolecular Sciences, Engineering and Biological Systems, Genes and Developmental Biology, Plant and Microbial Sciences.

BBSRC does not award studentships directly: candidates for a studentship should address enquiries to the university department, BBSRC-sponsored research institute or other approved institution in which they would like to train.

b. Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

www.esrc.ac.uk

Subject areas: Area Studies and Development Studies; Economic and Social History; Economics; Education; Human Geography; Interdisciplinary Studies in Science; Technology and Innovation;



Linguistics; Management and Business Studies; Planning, Environmental and Housing Studies; Political Science; International Relations; Psychology and Cognitive Science; Social Anthropology; Social Work and Health Studies; Social Statistics, Research Methods and Computing; Socio-Legal Studies; Sociology.

Two Modes of Recognition are granted for ESRC studentships which are referred to as 1 + 3 and + 3. A 1 + 3 programme comprises a Masters course which provides a programme of research training linked to a doctoral training programme. You should apply to a 1 + 3 recognised department if you intend to undertake a PhD but have not completed a full programme of research training. A 1 + 3 studentship provides support for four years through a Masters and PhD through a single application to the ESRC.

A + 3 programme is a doctoral training programme. If you are able to demonstrate that you have already received substantial training, usually through a Masters degree which has included broad training in social science research methods that will equip you for an independent research project in a particular subject or interdisciplinary field, you can apply to either a 1 + 3 or + 3 recognised department.

The ESRC no longer funds 'stand-alone' Masters Courses. Funding for Masters training is only available as part of a 1 + 3 programmes.

c. Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC)

www.epsrc.ac.uk

For Research and Taught Masters and Doctoral studies.

Programme areas: Mathematical Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Innovative Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Environment, Information and Communications Technologies, Life Sciences.

Prospective students should not apply directly to EPSRC but should address enquiries to the university department in which they wish to train. Application deadlines may vary from University to university. Information about all of EPSRC funding opportunities can be found on the Student Zone of the EPSRC website.

d. Medical Research Council (MRC)

www.mrc.ac.uk

Only for research.

Deadline for nominations: Departments must submit nominations by no later than 31 July.

e. Natural Environment Research Council (NERC)

www.nerc.ac.uk

Only for research.

Programme areas: Earth Observation; Earth Sciences; Freshwater Sciences; Marine and Atmospheric Sciences; Terrestrial Sciences.

Deadline for nominations: University departments must submit nominations before 31 July.

f. Science and technology Facilities Council

<http://www.stfc.ac.uk/>

g. The Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)

<http://www.ahrc.ac.uk>

AHRC postgraduate awards are available for both Master's and doctoral study.

Programme areas: English and American Studies; Media/Communication Studies; other Languages, Literatures and Cultures; Linguistics; Visual and Performing Arts; History of Art/Architecture; History; Philosophy; History and Philosophy of Science; Theology; Divinity and Religious Studies; Archaeology; Classics; Law

Arts and Design; Practice-based Drama; Interpreting and Translating; Film and TV Studies; Archive Administration; Librarianship and Information Science, Practice-based Media Studies; Creative Writing; Drama, Dance and Performing Arts; Musical Performance.

Applications should be submitted through the department at which you wish to study.

C. Other sources

a. This is a useful link to the organisation of science and sources of funding in the UK:

British Council Brussels

<http://www.britishcouncil.be>

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/science/gost/index.htm>

b. These two sites give an overview of different sources of funding in the UK:

<http://www.tiresias.org/research/funding/>

<http://www2.surrey.ac.uk/fahs/research/researchfunding/ukfunding/>

c. The Student Awards Agency for Scotland

The student Awards Agency for Scotland (SAAS) runs two award schemes: the Scottish Studentship Scheme (SSS) and the Postgraduate Students' Allowances Scheme (PSAS). EU students can apply provided they make their address in Scotland their permanent address. For more information on this scheme please visit www.student-support-saas.gov.uk.

Deadline for applications: Depending on when your course starts 1 August, 1 January, 1 April, 1 July.

d. University Awards

UK Scholarships databases

Many universities and colleges of higher education have a number of scholarships available for their students, British, EU and International students. You can search for these scholarships using the Scholarship Search UK databases at www.educationuk.org or www.studentmoney.org.

For more detailed information, contact the institutions directly.

Research and Teaching assistantships

These positions are advertised through academic departments, scholarship offices, careers services and in the education and specialist press such as:

The Education Guardian (<http://education.guardian.co.uk>);

The Times Higher Education Supplement <http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/>

The New Scientist (<http://www.newscientistjobs.com>)

Assistantships can be quite demanding, as you are required to combine teaching and your own personal research project. Compare the salaries, as well as the arrangements the department is willing to make, to ensure that the combination of teaching and research is balanced.

e. Language Assistants

The French Community of Belgium offers seven language assistant posts for French language assistants in the UK for 8 to 9 months. More information and conditions are to be found at:

www.wbri.be/bourses.

f. European Union

The Community Research and Development Information Service (CORDIS)

http://cordis.europa.eu/home_fr.html provides funding to enhance academic and research collaboration within the EU, especially in science and engineering. Universities participating in EU scholarship schemes should be able to offer advice.

You may also want to take a look at the European job and fellowships database:

<http://ec.europa.eu/euraxess/index.cfm/jobs/index>

g. Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is currently the world's largest private sponsor of university-level international scholarships. They offer Academic –Year and Multi-Year Ambassadorial scholarships, Cultural Ambassadorial Scholarships and Rotary Grants for University teachers. Please visit

<http://www.rotary.belux.org> for more information on how to apply from Belgium or Luxembourg.

h. Career Development Loans

These are deferred repayment bank loans (www.lifelonglearning.co.uk/cdl) administered by the Department of Education and Skills in partnership with three major banks. The loans are awarded towards vocational studies or training. Any EU citizen over the age of 18 may apply provided they live or intend to train in the UK and they use the training or education to work within the EU.

i. Fondation Fernand Lazard

This foundation offers interest-free loans to Europeans of maximum €25 000.

<http://www.redweb.be/lazard>

j. Part-time work

Part-time work during studies can provide a useful source of supplementary income. Students should, however, be careful not to overextend themselves by taking on too many commitments. Information on vacancies can be found at institutions, recruitment agencies, job centres, or by approaching employers directly. Many academic departments employ postgraduates for tutoring and demonstrating. It should be noted that recipients of Research Council awards are normally not allowed to take on more than six hours of tutoring and demonstrating a week.

Useful website addresses for UK Postgraduate Studies:
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www.educationuk.org - The best place to start looking for postgraduate courses. This British Council website offers a wide range of information on postgraduate opportunities in the UK

www.prospects.csu.ac.uk - The UK official graduate careers website. A huge amount of information on further study including course search and funding advice.

www.postgrad.hobsons.com - Hobson's postgraduate site also has a course search facility, plus an A to Z of institutions, more advice on funding, and the latest postgraduate news.

www.mbaworld.com - The best place to go for advice if you are considering studying for an MBA.

<http://www.timeshighereducation.co.uk/> - The Times Higher Education Supplement. The newspaper for professionals with articles and information on jobs.

www.ukcosa.org.uk – UKCOSA/UKCISA – The Council for International Education provides good advice for international students on finance, work and other practical issues.

www.qaa.ac.uk - Quality Assurance Agency. For anyone interested in taking a taught postgraduate course in the UK, this is the official source for information on how the different universities perform.

<http://www.hefce.ac.uk/> - Working in partnership, the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) promotes and funds high-quality, cost-effective teaching and research, meeting the diverse needs of students, the economy and society.

<http://www.hefcw.ac.uk/> - Provides information about higher education and funding in Wales.

<http://www.sfc.ac.uk/> - Provides information about higher education and funding in Scotland.

<http://www.delni.gov.uk/> - Provides information about higher education and funding in Northern Ireland.