

Research Briefing
**Funding for adult and
post-graduate learners
2016/17: a guide for
constituents**

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National Assembly for Wales
Research Service

The National Assembly for Wales is the democratically elected body that represents the interests of Wales and its people, makes laws for Wales and holds the Welsh Government to account.

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Research Briefing

Funding for adult and post-graduate learners 2016/17: a guide for constituents

This briefing provides information on funding sources for higher education and other types of post-16 education.



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01.Introduction

This guide outlines sources of information for students in further and higher education who are seeking alternative sources of funding, including charities and trusts. It may be of particular interest to adult and post-graduate learners. Information on the Welsh Government's student support packages can be seen in our briefings, Student Support in Higher Education and Student Support in Further Education.

02.Higher education

Support for specific subjects

Research Councils

There are seven **Research Councils** in the UK. Each Research Council has their own portfolio which covers a variety of subjects ranging from the medical and biological sciences to astronomy, physics, chemistry and engineering, social sciences, economics, environmental sciences and the arts and humanities. All the research councils **consider** funding individual postgraduates, although funding from any Research Council is competitive, and getting a place on a postgraduate programme does not entitle a student to an award. More detailed information can be found on the **Research Councils UK** website.

Social Work

The Care Council for Wales administers a Social Work Bursary Scheme for students studying an approved undergraduate degree or Masters degree courses in Social Work. There are a limited number of bursaries available. £2,500 non-income assessed bursary per year (up to three years) and a Practice Learning Opportunity Allowance equivalent to £7.50 per practice learning opportunity day is available for those studying a Social Work degree. Those studying a Masters degree in Social Work may be eligible for a £6,640 non-income assessed bursary per year (up to two years) which includes a contribution of £3,390 towards tuition fees and a Practice Learning Opportunity Allowance equivalent to £7.50 per practice learning opportunity day.

Postgraduate students may also be eligible to apply for additional allowances depending on their circumstances, such as the Childcare Grant, Parents Learning Allowance, Adult Dependants Grant and the Disabled Students Allowance

More information on this scheme can be on the **Care Council for Wales's** website.

Initial Teacher Training

The Welsh Government provides incentives for those undertaking Initial Teacher Training through Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) leading to Qualified Teacher Status. The incentives are announced annually. The amounts of grant vary depending on the level of the student's first degree and the subject of study. Further information can be seen on the **Teacher Training & Education in Wales** website.

Law

The **Law Society** represents solicitors across England and Wales. The society provides a variety of support including negotiating with and lobbying regulators, government and others and offers training and advice. They administer a **Diversity Access Scheme** to help exceptionally talented,

committed people overcome social economic or personal barriers to becoming a solicitor. This can provide full and partial scholarships to fund the Legal Practice Course; work placements; and mentoring support.

Dance and Drama

The Dance and Drama Awards (DaDA) scheme offers income assessed support for tuition fees and living costs at a number of private dance and drama institutions in England. DaDA funding is intended to provide a contribution to the costs of participating for talented individuals who want to become professional actors and dancers. The amount of grant depends on household income and where the student lives and studies. Further information can be seen on the **Education Funding Agency website**.

Charities and trusts

The **Sidney Perry Foundation** primarily helps first-degree students, but also supports students on second degree courses that are related to first degrees. It can provide financial assistance to individuals who would otherwise be unable through lack of means to proceed with their education. Students must be younger than 35 when the course starts. Guidance and application forms can be seen on the Foundation's website. Grants are based on the academic year and applications should arrive by November the year before. In exceptional circumstances late applications may be considered, with a final cut-off of 31 January.

The **James Pantyfedwen Foundation** may offer grants to Welsh students undertaking post-graduate study, especially research work. **Guidance for student applications (PDF, 78KB)** can be found on the foundation's website. The closing date for applications for courses which start in September/October in any year (or with a later starting date in the same academic year) is 30 June preceding the start date. Application forms are available from April 1 in any year

The **Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust** aims to support students of medicine, dentistry or veterinary science, and postgraduate students in all fields of study who are over the age of 24 within the UK. More information can be found on the Trust's website or by emailing **admin@stapleytrust.org**. Application packs for the 2017/18 academic year will be available from 3 January 2017. The Trust encourages electronic application submissions. The deadline for submissions is either 31 March 2017, or the first 300 completed applications received, whichever comes first.

03.Support for vocational education

Professional and Career Development Loans (PCDLs) are available to anyone aged 18 or over wishing to undertake a course or training which will equip the applicant with the skills needed for an occupation, trade or profession. PCDLs are available for full-time or part-time learning **and loans of between £300 and £10,000** can be borrowed. Courses must:

- only last up to 2 years, or 3 years if they include 1 year of work experience;
- be provided by an organisation on the Professional Career and Development Loan Register;
- help with the student's career - they don't have to lead to a qualification.

The PCDLs are available from three high street banks participating in the scheme. More detailed information can be obtained from the PCDL Information Line on **0800 100 900** as well as the **GOV.UK website**.

The **Thomas Wall Trust** provides grants to students who are in financial need and who wish to undertake educational courses at any level and duration, especially courses which are vocational or are concerned with social service in a broad sense and which will lead to paid employment. They offer assistance to help people overcome barriers to work and study, barriers must be more than just the financial implication of studying. For courses starting in September 2016, applications may be made from January 2016 to August 2016. More detailed information can be found on the Thomas Wall Trust website or by emailing **information@thomaswalltrust.org.uk**.

The **Lawrence Atwell's Charity** provides financial support in the form of grants and loans to young people aged between 16 and 26 and based in the UK. Financial support is available to help towards the cost of vocational training or equipment that is essential for work. The charity's aim is to assist young people who come from a low-income background to become qualified or equipped to work in their chosen career. More detailed information can be obtained from charity's website or by contacting (020) 72 36 5629. There is no specific deadline for applications which are considered on a first-come, first-served basis.

04. Further information

A list of UK trusts, charities and foundations that provide postgraduate funding can be found on the **Prospects** website. Additionally **Hot Courses**, **Scholarship Search**, **Postgraduate studentships** and **Student Cash Point** offer students online databases containing information on **student grants, loans, bursaries, scholarships** and **awards**.

Turn2Us is a charitable service which offers a similar service helping people locate and access appropriate sources of financial support based on their particular needs and circumstances. Turn2Us's funding database can help people find information on **Welfare Benefits, Grants, Benevolent funds** and **other help**.

The **Grants Register**, published annually, also provides details on thousands of funding opportunities world-wide. The **Directory of Grant Making Trusts**, published annually by the Charities Aid Foundation, also provide information about relevant sources of grants. These books are available from careers services or at local libraries.

The **National Postgraduate Committee** is a registered charity dedicated to the advancement of postgraduate education in the United Kingdom. **The NPC's activities do not include financial sponsorship of individuals or of courses** but they have a section on the website which contains information and **outlines sources of financial assistance** available to **Postgraduates studying in the UK**.