

Higher education – financial support for adult and postgraduate learners

June 2015

Introduction

This guide outlines useful sources of information for adult learners and others in relation to Undergraduate and Postgraduate Study.

Welsh Government

Funding for the Higher Education (HE) Sector in Wales is provided by the **Welsh Government** through the **Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)**, whilst support for students is administered by **Student Finance Wales**.

The Welsh Government has produced a general funding guide which is available from their website entitled ***A Guide to Funding for Learners***. The guide displays the latest sources of financial assistance available to students wishing to continue on to **Higher Education, Further Education** and **Vocational Education**.

Student Finance Wales

Student Finance Wales provides students with the financial support and information they need to enter in to Higher Education. The funding available will be dependent on the set eligibility criteria.

Funding available through Student Finance Wales includes:

For full-time study:

- Tuition fee support
- Maintenance loan
- Welsh Government learning grant
- Special Support grant
- Additional support (learners with a disability or for students with caring responsibilities)

For part-time study:

- Tuition fee support
- Course grant
- Additional support (learners with a disability or for students with caring responsibilities)

The Student Finance Wales website has a **student finance calculator** which can provide students with estimates of how much support they could receive.

The website also provides students with **information and guidance on applying**, including the correct forms needed to make an application for funding.

Further details on the type of support provided by Student Finance Wales can be found in the following guides:

- **Student finance : New full-time students 2015/16 (PDF, 712KB)**
- **Part-time students: 2015-16 new students**
- **Student loans: A guide to terms and conditions 2015/16 (PDF, 253KB)**

Additional information on the services provided by Student Finance Wales can be obtained by visiting the **Student Finance Wales** website or by contacting them on **0300 200 4050**.



Research Council

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.

The seven Research Councils are:

- The **Arts and Humanities** Research Council
- The **Biotechnology and Biological Sciences** Research Council
- The **Engineering and Physical Sciences** Research Council
- The **Economic and Social Research** Council
- The UK **Medical Research** Council
- **Natural Environment** Research Council
- The **Science and Technology Facilities** Council

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.

National Postgraduate Committee (NPC)

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**.

Subject Specific Support

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.

The Law Society also operates a **Diversity Access Scheme** offering assistance with fees for the Legal Practice Course (LPC) to exceptional aspiring entrants to the solicitors' profession. Detailed information on this **scheme** can be found on the Law Society's website.

Social Work

The Care Council for Wales launched the **Social Work Bursary Scheme** in 2004 as an incentive to train for Social Work students.

The Bursary is open to **Undergraduate and Postgraduate students**.

The scheme offers eligible Undergraduate and Postgraduate students a non-income assessed bursary and a practice learning opportunity allowance.

Postgraduate students may also be eligible to apply for the following:

- Income assessed Childcare Grant
- Income Assessed Parents Learning Allowance
- Income Assessed Adult Dependants Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance

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



NHS Bursaries

The **NHS Wales Student Award Unit** implements the NHS Wales Bursary Schemes, which provides funding for healthcare students on NHS funded courses in Wales and Welsh domiciled **medical and dental** students within the UK. Further information can be seen on their [website](#).

Further information on financial support can be found in the guide [Financial help for Health Care Students in Wales 2015 \(PDF, 784KB\)](#)

Association of Accounting Technicians

The **Association of Accounting Technicians (AAT)** is the UK's leading qualification and membership body for **accounting and finance staff**. They award vocational qualifications in accounting and are sponsored by the following professional accountancy bodies CIPFA, ICAEW, CIMA and ICAS.

The AAT has over 125,000 members in more than 90 countries worldwide including students, people working in accountancy, and self-employed business owners.

They offer support to their members through AAT approved training providers and have a branch network offering support and training. **The AAT does not source funding but signposts other sources of financial support** available to people who wish to undertake training.

Initial Teacher Training

The Welsh Government provides incentives for those **undertaking Initial Teacher Training in certain subjects**. The incentives are announced annually. Further information can be seen on the [Teacher Training & Education in Wales](#) website.

Further information on subject specific support is also available on the [Careers Wales website](#).

Professional and Career Development Loan (PCDL)

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. 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](#).

Charities, Trusts and Funding Resources

Set out below are several **charities, trusts and foundations** that aim to provide support to individuals wishing to continue in to Higher Education.

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.

More detailed information can be found on the Thomas Wall Trust website or by emailing information@thomaswalltrust.org.uk.

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.

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**.

The **James Pantyfedwen Foundation** objectives are the advancement, encouragement and promotion of religion and education in Wales, and other charitable purposes for the benefit of Welsh people, including Eisteddfodau, churches, Sunday schools and **students undertaking post-graduate study**, especially research work.

Funding is **restricted to Welsh individuals and registered charities which benefit Welsh people**. **Guidance for student applications (PDF, 78KB)** can be found on the foundation's website, by contacting: **01970 612806** or by emailing **pantyfedwen@btinternet.com**

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**

Financial Contingency Fund

Higher and Further Education Institutions also operate their own **Financial Contingency Fund** (sometimes referred to as a Student Hardship fund) in order to provide discretionary financial help.

Assistance is subject to a number of eligibility criteria with priority given to certain groups, however there

is no automatic entitlement to an award, which is decided by each individual institution at its discretion.

Further information on Financial Contingency Funds can be obtained from individual **university or college student support or money advice centres**.

Funding Databases

A list of UK trusts, charities and foundations that provide postgraduate funding can be found on the **Prospects** website. Additionally **Hot Courses, Scholarship Search** 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.

Research Service

The Research Service has also produced the following factsheets: ***Student Support in Higher Education 2015/2016 (PDF, 240KB)*** and ***Student Support in Further Education in 2015/2016 (PDF, 233KB)*** which may be of interest. View our **full range of publications** on the Assembly website.

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