



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Student Finance Wales Information Notice

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Support available in 2019/20 for postgraduate Master's and
doctoral students

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Higher Education Funding Council for Wales
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Introduction

This Notice describes the support rates for postgraduate Master's and doctoral support in the 2019/20 academic year. In the event of anomalies between this Notice and the regulations providing for support, the regulations prevail.

Postgraduate Master's

From 1 August 2019, students ordinarily resident in Wales (and those from the EU studying at a Welsh institution) may be entitled to a combination of loan and grant as a contribution to costs while studying a postgraduate Master's degree course. The total amount of support available is non-means-tested and is paid directly to the student.

The total support available to an eligible student is **£17,000**. A grant of up to **£6,885** is available, depending upon household income. The balance of support is a loan.

Support comprises the following elements:

- A non-means-tested contribution to costs base grant of **£1,000** is available to all eligible students.
- An additional means-tested contribution to costs grant of **£5,885** is available to eligible students with a household income of up to £18,370 per annum. For every £6.937 of household income per annum above this threshold, the amount of additional means-tested grant will be reduced by £1.

- A non-means-tested contribution to costs loan is available to all eligible students. The amount of loan available will be equal to the level of total support (£17,000 in 2019/20) less the total grant (base grant plus additional grant) a student is eligible for.

For part-time study, support is allocated over the number of years the course is studied. Support is profiled across academic years; for example, £17,000 for a one year course, £8,500 per year for a course lasting two years and £4,250 per year for a course lasting four years. Full-time courses between one and two years are eligible for support. Part-time courses of up to four years are eligible for support.

Postgraduate Master's students who started their courses in either the 2017/18 or 2018/19 academic years are not eligible for this package of support. These continuing students will remain eligible for the package of support available at the time they began their course.

An illustration of the amounts of grant and loan available at various levels of income is shown in **Table 1**.

Due to Her Majesty's Treasury restrictions on the provision of loans for post graduate courses, the Welsh Government is considering how it can provide additional grant support for eligible students aged 60 and over for the 2019/20 academic year.

Doctoral

From 1 August 2019, students ordinarily resident in Wales and those from the EU studying at a Welsh institution may be entitled to support. Eligible students starting in 2019 will be able to borrow up to a maximum of £25,700, as a contribution to costs, over the period of the doctoral programme. Courses can be full or part-time and be between three and eight years in length. Payments are profiled across the number of years of the doctoral programme.

Those in receipt of studentship funding from any of the seven UK Research Councils (whether full or fees only) will not be eligible to receive a loan. Those receiving other direct forms of Government support for maintenance and fees costs, including any salary contributions or fees provided by the NHS for the purposes of doctoral study, and the KESS 2 scheme, will not be eligible either.

Courses starting from academic year 2018/19 or later (i.e. on or after 1 August 2018) are eligible for support.

TABLE 1

Postgraduate Master's grant and loan entitlement: illustrative levels of income, 2019/20

INCOME (£)	GRANT (£)	LOAN (£)	TOTAL GRANT PLUS LOAN (£)
One year course			
18,370	6,885.00	10,115.00	17,000.00
20,000	6,651.00	10,349.00	17,000.00
25,000	5,930.00	11,070.00	17,000.00
30,000	5,209.00	11,791.00	17,000.00
35,000	4,488.00	12,512.00	17,000.00
40,000	3,767.00	13,233.00	17,000.00
45,000	3,047.00	13,953.00	17,000.00
50,000	2,326.00	14,674.00	17,000.00
55,000	1,605.00	15,395.00	17,000.00
59,200	1,000.00	16,000.00	17,000.00
Two year course (per year)			
18,370	3,442.50	5,057.50	8,500.00
20,000	3,325.50	5,174.50	8,500.00
25,000	2,965.00	5,535.00	8,500.00
30,000	2,604.50	5,895.50	8,500.00
35,000	2,244.00	6,256.00	8,500.00
40,000	1,883.50	6,616.50	8,500.00
45,000	1,523.50	6,976.50	8,500.00
50,000	1,163.00	7,337.00	8,500.00
55,000	802.50	7,697.50	8,500.00
59,200	500.00	8,000.00	8,500.00

Notes

The amount of grant is based on a full-time rate (one year duration) of £6,885, reduced by £1 for every additional £6.937 of income, above £18,370. Part-time grants and loans are pro-rated by duration of study.

Further information and guidance

Further information and guidance will be available from the Student Finance Wales website.