

What is PhD?

When you enrolled for a PhD degree in any field of research, it is your responsibility to manage your own learning process. You will be guided by department academics, fellow students, supervisors and those who can contribute to your studies throughout the course of your doctorate program. These people will help you comply with the necessary requirements and other documents and activities you have to do to successfully complete the course. However, the determination of the requirements and their execution are still with you. Meaning to say, the decision with regards to the right course you should take is still vested on you. Discussions, help you exactly need, and argument on what you have to learn are just among the tasks expected from you. Just think of these as chances open for you and not deficiencies. Supervisors serve as your providers of the required research personnel and physical resources. You may have an option to provide a studentship or scholarship award as well as through apprenticeship. Make certain to clearly define the subject of your research and it has to be in line with the best interest of your supervisor, with certain limits to research creativity level shown. This may lead to a joint doctoral research ownership between you and your supervisor. Your main purpose then as a research student is to have state-of-the-art contribution to the subject matter. You know exactly who you are as an intelligent and successful holder having well-earned qualifications. You are expected to graduate with a new identity as a competent professional having confidence of their knowledge, argument of your own opinion with anybody and awareness of its limitations.

PhD Funding for Students

Just like students enrolling college, those pursuing their PhD degree apply for financial assistance to meet their expenses. PhD grants are open to students for their academic merit or those who are financially incapacitated. They come in different types of grants for different purposes. Here research and determination of the type of grant that is suitable for your academic needs will help increase the chances of funding expansion. Basically, searching for scholarship grants to back your PhD education is a lot easier than what you might be thinking. Funding for PhD students based on research is actually considered prolific. There are now several organizations invested in research initiatives carried out by universities having PhD candidate staff. You may ask the advisor, financial aid or head of your department for any available grants offered by your university or college. Try to research for specialty grants in the national level or in your local area. Inquire whether the most prominent professional organizations in your chosen field of study offer study grants for students taking up PhD program. Make an investigation of some grants intended for the specialty populations. A number of associations and organizations now offer student grants to minority people, but are willing to pursue their academics.

Remember to know what the organizations offering grant you applied for expect from you. This serves as one of the most significant measures to maintain and secure grant funding. Some organizations may require you to conduct outside research, particular time line reports or community service for document project developments. There are also organizations that ask for

effort other than the requirements specified in the application process. It is also important to have better understanding of the stipulations linked to the study funds granted to you alongside the necessary requirements you need to comply. Should you fail to do this may only lessen the amount of money and/or repay the amount previously dispersed.

Available PhD Funding and Funding Application

Should you have difficulty in financially supporting your PhD study, there are now different options you may take into account.

1. University Funding

Most universities in Great Britain provide postgraduate students with bursaries, discounts or scholarships. Donor and government agencies usually implement their scholarships through academic institutions and universities. University scholarships are fully funded though some of these awards seemed smaller. They cover all the living expenses and fees incurred by the successful applicant during the course. University funding often comes from alumni donations and is not always available. Eligible students for the funding are those who studied as undergraduate at the funding institution. University scholarships are commonly offered in an open competition through a Research Council. These study grants come from the donations from friends and alumni of charitable trusts, university and other organizations. Bear in mind that university scholarships' application period often coincides with the date of university admission application. There are also universities select a later deadline. Make certain to check for details way ahead of time with your preferred university.

2. Research Council Funding

PhD research council funding offers financial assistance to every academic area at the postgraduate level including the environment and engineering. Among the Research Councils offering scholarships in UK include the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Science and Technology Facilities Council, the Arts and Humanities Research Council, the Economic and Social Research Council, the Natural Environment Research Council, and the Medical Research Council. The funding from these research councils cover maintenance, travel and research material costs and course fees. They are only offered to minority students and they are considered very competitive. These studentships usually add £50,000 values over the duration of the entire course. The minimum stipend is at £13,726 and higher amount of stipends provided to study types within the priority areas. The successful candidates for these scholarship awards are mainly based on their educational record and/or research area. Scholarship applications should be submitted to the departments of certain university and not to the research councils. Just take note of the things you should consider before applying research council grant such as the fierce competition in getting a grant, awards that require minimum degree grade, application made for

the university, availability of research grant programmes in early spring and their varied application deadline.

3. Charity Scholarships and Funding

British charities are happy to help young minds and great thinkers of the future to succeed. Huge organizations and groups of volunteers are active in their effort to help others. They open PhD hopefuls to opportunities in pursuing their postgraduate degree at universities or colleges as long as they comply with all basic application level. Some charities want to inspire the quest for students' excellence and a sense of purpose. They usually select certain students deserving of their financial support. Since these charities are smaller than any other providers of fund, usually they cannot fully cover all the expenses of PhD study. It is highly recommended to apply for more than one charity funding to support your academics.

4. Your Scholarship Application

As soon as you have chosen your preferred source of fund, the next step you have to take is to pursue your academic dream through application. Taking the initial step of the application can actually be more difficult than finding the best scholarship for you. Note that some scholarships and subjects require particular applications with specific evidence of portfolios, proof of religion, identity or ethnic background. There is a need to carefully read and understand the questions and read them again. If needed, it would be best to copy the questions, think about them and jot down some of your ideas. See to it that every question asked is carefully answered and they should be done honestly.

The application process for PhD scholarship may involve supporting materials aside from your contact information including a letter of recommendation from supervisor or teacher, transcript of records, essay and cover letter. Make certain that you will check the list of your preferred study grant provider several times so that you it will be easy for you to remove several applications at once.

Along the required documents for the funding, you will be asked to write your personal statement describing your academic passion, knowledge and skills. You have to make it really good as it will serve as your make or break funding application. It will be carefully scrutinized by trusts and charities so be sure to make it right selling yourself to them, proving them that you deserve their financial assistance. Address your personal statement accordingly whether to research council, university or charity. Focus on your academic achievements and interest to the subject when you are applying for research council or university funding. When you wish to get support from a charity, prove that you already have resorted to other sources of financing and that it is your last option. Avoid making too much academic speech and jargon when writing to non-educational charities.

Be sure to follow all the instructions of each scholarship grant application because missing out a significant step in one scholarship application serves as the most rapid way to lose a valuable amount of funding. Double-check your application first before you submit it to ensure you haven't missed anything. Also, follow proper etiquette in the preparation and submission of your application.

5. Scholarship Advice

Before submitting your scholarship application, it is best you know exactly what type of scholarship you want. You should know too well why you wish to get a PhD degree. It would be best to search for charitable funds backing vocational courses if you feel that your degree is more vocational than academic. You will be at the edge over the others vying for the funding if you clearly explain why you are preferred certain subject. To convince a charity that you are worth funding for your PhD program, try to communicate your research in such a way that they can easily understand it without the feeling of patronizing the course. Try to relate your research subject to a remarkable event or figure so others can understand your research topic. Some PhD funding are developed specifically for mature students including those who are experienced or who have left academics for several years already and still want to pursue their academic career. Research councils pointed out that there will be no limitation on the applicant to be considered for the fund.

Contrary to that of research council grants, funding from charities support students who are taking their PhD on a part-time basis. It is the determination of the students that give charities reassurance on their financial assistance needs demonstrating their passion on their subject and course. This compels you to clarify in your statement that you are a part-time student and sell yourself by noting your positive attitude to help you get the funding. Don't be saddened if you're currently studying because some charities do have scholarship or funding for you. It is actually easier to apply for charity funding if you are already enrolled in your postgraduate program than when you are applying at the start of the degree. In this case, it is advisable that you find charities offering lesser fund than financial aid from universities and research councils. A student who only have three months to complete their PhD or masters and asking for funding worth £400 is regarded as a safer investment when compared to one who needs £200 for books in the first week of the part-time course.

But before you start applying for PhD funding, you have to consider some factors: giving more information about your personal information since the people judging your application do not know you yet, focusing your personal statement to your scientific interests and research experience, supporting your candidature with high scores in internationally accredited exams such as IELTS/TOEFL for English language and GRE for aptitude, and using CV/resume which indicates the honors and awards you received in your undergraduate years.

6. Finding the Best Scholarship for PhD Degree Program

Getting the best, right PhD scholarship requires the in-depth search for the most suitable award. Some students vying for PhD scholarship may find the search for funding a daunting task since there are many students also looking to get one through there are now many charities and institutions offering them. It is even observed to be a more tricky job than finding for the right course. Take into account that there are many red tape, bureaucracy and paperwork between the student and the financial matters. However, this should not be the case if you make sure that you know the exact avenue where to find it, what you have to refuse and what to apply for. It would be beneficial if you have established network around your department or school as you start your search for a scholarship grant for your PhD. Try to build academic relationships at the undergraduate level or while you are on your way to complete your masters degree. Learn about academics because they are responsible for the basis of your decisions on the exact proceeds of the scholarship. Never think of networking as a bad thing and that never consider bribing as an alternative.

There are PhD degree programmes will provide scholarships through universities, which may be called fellowships and usually require research or teaching under the supervision of a doctor. Some businesses, private institutions or organizations, or companies offer PhD scholarships requiring for internship, written reports or work. Try to check scholarships from gender-specific or minority scholarships. There are also types of study funding intended for certain degrees like biology or astronomy. These grants seemed to be distinctive since they ask for fewer requirements than those other scholarships although school transcripts are still required in some grants.

Meanwhile, prospective students seem not to realize there is no single scholarship that is appropriate for all students or postgraduate courses. Those students who realize this have the idea where to look for a scholarship that is right for them.

7. Further Search Tips For PhD Scholarships Regardless of Online or on Campus

When beginning the search for scholarships a student should always expect endless processes, red tape, and unfair bureaucracy meant to deter the students from applying for the aid. However, it doesn't have to be so hard. Finding a postgraduate scholarship is actually easier than you think. The keys to success are knowing where to look, what to look for, and what to brush off.

Networking:

As we mention earlier, networking is one of the foundations of finding postgraduate scholarships. Building and developing relationships especially throughout your school and department can be essentially useful during the looking stage. This is an important step because potential scholarships will take things into consideration such as your academic performance. If you are able to perform well in your academic studies your peers as well as teachers will feel more inclined to write you letters of references appealing to the scholarship decision makers as to why you deserve this scholarship more than others in your field.

What a lot of students fail to understand is that there is no such thing as the perfect all in one scholarship. There is not one scholarship out there that is suitable for every single person and students who fail to realize this fact often find themselves having trouble funding university properly. Below we will take a look at different advantages that you can have in order to propel yourself to the top of any scholarship award list.

1. **Develop your portfolio-** many students do not understand the importance a portfolio can make on the working world. Portfolios are a wonderful way to let your future bosses or in this case scholarships know where your skills lie. A portfolio is where you would stash your best works for instance if you had any research publications, journal articles, books, conference papers, or received any credit for such publications. This is your place to truly shine through and it is important that you deliver a clean and clear portfolio that accents your accomplishments. Potential scholarships will be more impressed with previous publications and more willing to offer scholarships because they believe that you will credit future success to them. Many scholarship students going to research schools such as Cambridge and Oxford all had previous publications in their name before being awarded their scholarships. Always have your portfolio ready.
2. **It is never too early to plan ahead-** if you know that you are going to be applying for a postgraduate program it is always a safe bet to plan ahead. You need to know everything about your specific area of interest before you ever start applying for scholarships. You need to make sure that you conduct thorough research about the school that you wish to attend and everything that their department offers and expects from you. You will find that some departments offer scholarships within their own departments. You would need to research all the criteria such as GPA, ranking, and other measures of academic performance in order to see if you met the requirements to apply.
3. **Know your subject area and determine its popularity-** this is no secret the more popular a subject area the more competition you will have in finding a scholarship. Obviously if you are in the market for a scholarship for a PhD then you really do not have a large selection on the matter of subject selection. There are some subjects that no one really particularly wants a PhD in such as in the UK the subject area physical sciences is a subject that most people tend to stray away from. In subjects such as these it is easier to get a scholarship.
4. **Choose your university with care-** this is one of the most important decisions a student will ever make. All universities are compiled in a list of different criteria that allows some schools to be more prestigious while others tend to hang in the lower areas of the table. Universities such as Harvard, Oxford, or Cambridge are all at the top of the list, which makes finding scholarships harder for these schools. Schools at the bottom of the list are more into worrying about paper work and you will find yourself tripping over bureaucratic red tape wherever you look. Lower universities face a lot of pressure in

order to prove they provide the same quality education and some of the higher institutes and while they might be cheaper and easier to obtain scholarships for but they expect other things like longer thesis papers and more singular approach to problems. It is always a good rule of thumb to choose universities from the middle and work your way around those. When looking for scholarships it is best to avoid the best and the worst universities.

5. **Choose your appropriate department-** once you have selected your university it is essential to choose your department that is the most suitable for your degree area. This can be a flexible option depending on the guidelines set upon by your university. If you were wanting to obtain a PhD in computer science you have the option of selecting the department of computers or you have the option of selecting the mathematics department. There are many different departments that will work with you to arrange a schedule and allow you the flexibility you desire. Sometimes your best plan of action could lie in the wrong department.
6. **Choose the right supervisor-** Your supervisor can be your best friend or your worst enemy. They can literally make or break all your preparations for your PhD. It is important to choose wisely when choosing your supervisor. It is perfectly acceptable to be picky and it is so important that you research. It is fine to interview potential supervisors before settling on the right one for you. The best way to tell if a supervisor is right for you is to have a discussion about what you envision for your future and see how enthusiastic your supervisor is about your plans. You need to have someone who believes in you and your plans just as much as you believe in yourself and your plans. You don't want a supervisor who is just there for the paycheck. You want the supervisor that is going to jump up and begin writing things down and explaining different things and arguing and challenging your ideas so that together you can form the perfect plan. Be advised that creativity should be productive and you don't want to get stuck with an over enthusiastic nutter that never really makes sense. This is also a good opportunity to network and seek out supervisors that are searching for the perfect candidate for their scholarship. Many supervisors will offer scholarships to students when they are looking for someone to help out on projects. Never settle for a supervisor who does not meet all of your needs. There are typically four types of supervisors
 - a. Type A are the supervisors that will let you get along with your work and at the end of the periods you will need to be ready to submit your thesis
 - b. Type B are your control freaks who try and control every aspect of your degree plans and PhD preparations.
 - c. Type C are the ones that are only doing the advising thing to keep their tenure or job. They are relatively useless in helping you achieve your goals for a PhD

- d. Type D are the types of supervisor that is bitter because they probably had a rough time in school and are set on making anyone that crosses their path miserable. They will be the stricter ones but you will experience results.

It is always a good thought to do your best to avoid Types B and C.

There has also been some discussion of if the age of your supervisor will help to determine the effectiveness of the supervisor. Each point can be argued.

- 1) Young- it is usually not a good idea to saddle yourself with a supervisor that has recently graduated from their own PhD program. While they will be full of bright ideas they lack the experience that you need to help form a complete degree plan. They also will carry the extra baggage left behind by their own advisors. For example if your new young advisor was horrible in English and had issues with grammar then he is more likely to be a grammar freak to you. A good way to discover this is if the advisor insists that you use oxford commas and tends to act more as an English professor than a scientist or professor.
- 2) Middle aged: middle aged supervisors are normally more understanding and are not famous for being bothered about pickiness. They are the types that are normally good with accepting your research papers, proof reading through them, and allowing you to publish them under their names. They typically can boast large publication records spread out through various journals, conference papers, and books.
- 3) Old- if you can avoid being assigned an older supervisor do so. One of the biggest problems with older supervisors is that they typically retire before you graduate. With scholarships being arranged through the university, the departments, the supervisors, and finally the student it is important that all components be present the whole time. There have been numerous cases where the supervisor will take their retirement and students are left without supervisors, which causes them to lose their scholarships as well as their PhD's. Avoid elderly supervisors if at all possible.

Try to approach the newest member of the staff because even though they are newer they are probably more enthusiastic to supervise your degree because if you succeed then it makes them look good. They will be enthusiastic to work with you because being the newer teacher means that they have to work harder to prove themselves to their peers. They will also be pleased that you asked them because it makes them feel like they are making more of a difference. If you can identify the new person it is always worth a quick call, chat, or email to see if they are available.

Remember that the right supervisor could be working in the wrong department. There are often professors inside of departments that they never really researched in. It is not uncommon to find professor that did all of their research over optometry (the study of your eyes) working in the computer department. While their research is irrelevant to computers they can offer you a unique insight if you happened to be a medical major. They basically are just filling a space to improve the research profile for the computers department, which allows the head of the computers department to remain happy. These types of professors are more than likely able to offer you a scholarship but you should be careful because you will be forced to research in their specific areas. The best option is to decide your subject, hunt down a professor in an unrelated department who has done research in your area and approach them with the possibility of becoming your advisor.

Final Word....

Finding the appropriate scholarships can be a tough. It is important that you understand you are not alone in the process. Feel free to send us an email or if you wish to add something about your experience please contact us over at <http://online-phd-uk.co.uk/> and leave comments to let us know about your experience as well as your views regarding our research. We value your opinion and would be delighted to hear about your scholarship applications and your pursuit to gaining your PhD.

All the best,
From
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