Title: Funding for PhD Study

Duration: 02:56

At the moment, living costs for students in Birmingham are estimated at around £175.00 per week. This covers accommodation, bills, transport, food and general living costs. It varies between student to student but we would recommend using this as a rough guide. Typically, a PhD costs a lot less than undergraduate degrees per year and there is still an option to do them part time if needed. In budgeting for your post-graduate degree, be sure to check how much your degree will cost.

The University strongly recommends that post-graduates do not work more than 15 hours per week. However, the majority of PG students here do work to some extent alongside their degree as it helps to cover their living costs. The University does provides services on campus to find work, notably; WorkLink and the Guild of Students, where departments of the University and businesses will advertise vacancies, but you need to check your eligibility beforehand.

Research students often undertake teaching and demonstrating work at the University, which provides extra income and really important academic experience. You should talk to your supervisor about the opportunities available in your department.

If you are looking for a PhD, we recommend searching on FindaPhD.com, this shows all PhD courses currently on offer as well as funding status (if it comes with money, or if you apply for funding after you get your place). Apart from that, there are 7 government-Funded research councils which offer PhD studentships (covering tuition fees and living costs), Global Challenges PhD Scholarships (offered by the university) as well as smaller scholarships which may help towards funding your doctorate.

Independent from the university, there may be companies which offer doctoral funding (more often in medical sciences and engineering). Generally, PhD scholarships are typically advertised within the 12 months prior to the start date of the course (with some competitive scholarships having their deadline 11 months before the start date of the doctorate! So keep an eye on the deadlines as soon as you’re thinking of applying).

There is also a doctoral loan provided by the UK Government through the Student Loans Company (Student Finance England) which provides up to £25,000 for your whole course and is paid directly to you (similar to the master’s loan). You then decide where this money goes (be it on tuition or maintenance). There are more restrictions on this loan so we strongly recommend that you double check the eligibility criteria. You pay this back in the same manner as your undergraduate or masters loan in which you pay a small percentage of what you earn over a set threshold over £21,000 but this may change.

END OF RECORDING