

2023/24 SLC Postgraduate Doctoral Loans (PGDL)

Overview

The PGDL helps towards course and living costs while studying a postgraduate Doctoral programme. It's paid directly to students and isn't based on their household income. The loan will be divided equally across each year of a student's programme (**maximum** period of study) and will be paid in 3 instalments (33%/33%/34%) each year. For student loan purposes the University has to provide the Student Loans Company with three 'term' dates. These are the dates that students, who are 'Normally Registered', will receive their payments. For a student with standard dates these will be the first day of Semester 1, the first Monday following the Christmas vacation and the first Monday following the Easter vacation. For students on a programme with non-standard dates, a programme administrator will have informed the Curriculum Management team of these dates who in turn will have informed the SLC.

University guidance on PGDL can be found at: [Postgraduate Doctoral Loan - University of Birmingham](#)

Implications for Students

It is important that students are fully aware of the financial implications if they take a leave of absence, permanently withdraw or repeat any part of their course. Therefore, they should be advised to seek advice from Funding, Graduation and Awards: fga@contacts.bham.ac.uk

What Colleges are required to do

In order for the Student Loans Company to accurately assess a student's eligibility for the PGDL and for students to receive correct payments of the loan our internal attendance monitoring systems have to be effective.

The Department for Education requires a 'confirmation of study' from Registry before releasing payments. The Postgraduate Doctoral 'confirmation of study' (registration) also confirms:

- The student is in study – once the student has enrolled on their programme they are deemed to be in study
- Student is on an eligible full Doctoral course
- The student is studying at least 50% of the full course in the UK
- The student is on track to finish within the duration of their course/progression
- The student is not or will not be* in receipt of Research Council funding (made by United Kingdom Research & Innovation (UKRI))

* Students who have applied for UKRI funding who are waiting on a response as to whether they have been successful should not apply to Student Loans Company for the Doctoral loan. Only once the student has received confirmation that they will not receive funding from UKRI can they then apply to the Student Loans Company if they wish to. Also, students who have the intention of applying for UKRI funding at a later date throughout the duration of their course, should not apply to the Student Loans Company for Doctoral funding.

For any 'Home' students who do not meet the above registration requirements, please contact Student Data Management **as soon as possible** at: sdm@contacts.bham.ac.uk

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Registry is also responsible for notifying the Student Loans Company of changes in students' circumstances. To do this, Colleges are asked to provide **prompt** notifications to their usual Research Student Administration contacts of any Doctoral students who:

- Never Arrive at the University
- Change their course start date
- Permanently Withdraw from their course
- Exit their current course with a lower qualification
- Change their course intensity
- Transfer from one University of Birmingham course to another
- Suspend study from their course
- Resume study on their course
- Are in receipt of Research Council funding

This is so that students do not receive payments for which they are not entitled and then, subsequently, find themselves in financial difficulty when the Student Loans Company requests the immediate repayment of this.

Further information

For any queries regarding this process please contact Student Data Management at: sdm@contacts.bham.ac.uk