

2023/24 SLC Postgraduate Masters Loans (PGML)

Overview

The PGML is funding to help with course and living costs whilst studying a postgraduate Masters level course. It is paid directly to students and is not based on their income or the income of their household. The loan will be divided equally across each year of a student's programme 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 PGML can be found at: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/pgt/pgt-fees/postgraduate-loans.aspx>

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 PGML and for students to receive the 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 Masters '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
- Meeting minimum study intensity requirements if studying part time (part-time courses should be no more than twice the length of their one- or two-year full-time equivalent, where one is provided by the same Higher Education Provider or, where no full-time equivalent course is provided by the same Higher Education Provider, be no more than three academic years)
- Is on track to complete the course within the current course duration
- The student is studying at least 50% of the full course in the UK

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 Taught Student Administration and Research Student Administration contacts of any students who:

- Never Arrive at the University
- 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 eligible to apply for a healthcare bursary or are in receipt of a social work bursary from
 - the National Health Service
 - Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety
 - Student Awards Agency Scotland(If the student has not been awarded a social work bursary after applying for one, they may apply for the PGML)
- Wish to use Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) credits
(*students will no longer be eligible for the PGML if they use APL credits towards their Masters course*)

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