

Starting Points: Thinking About Postgraduate Study

Post graduate courses include Post graduate diplomas and certificates (shorter than a full Masters degree), Masters degrees, PhDs and other Professional courses. Additionally Conversion Courses enable you to 'convert' your first degree so you can pursue a specific career path.

It's worth considering that a large proportion of students complete post graduate courses part-time whilst working each year. This can be a helpful option if you're considering professional qualifications as you can build relevant work experience whilst also working towards professional qualifications.

Researching courses

- Work out what you want to gain from further study and thoroughly research courses to check course content, structure, assessment methods, employer links, course reputation etc...
- Use [job profiles](#) to identify qualifications required for specific areas of work, ask potential employers about their preferences in terms of qualifications and experience, research typical routes into academia for your discipline (have a look at [An Academic Career](#))
- Visit institutions and make contact with academic staff to get a 'feel' for both the department and the university
- Check social media and gather student feedback on courses
- Find out employment destinations of previous students (you may have to contact the university careers service and ask them if this information isn't readily available)

Issues to consider

- which course would be the best fit with my interests/longer term career options?
- is it the right time to do this, or do I want to work for one or two years first?
- what are the entry requirements and am I likely to meet them? (ring the institution if you're unsure about this)
- what modes of study are available? (part-time, full-time, distance learning)
- will I be able to obtain funding?
- employment prospects?
- how do I apply?

Applications

- Look at each individual course and individual institution for how to apply
- There may be application deadlines for applying for funding and if the course is popular and competitive
- You may require an application form or CV and covering letter or both, a research proposal for research degrees and portfolio for more creative courses
- Provide information and evidence to support your application
- Make an appointment to get support in making your application and preparing for the interview

Funding sources

- Research Councils
- Studentships and scholarships for example the Sheffield Hallam University PhD Scholarships
- [UK Government Postgraduate Loans Scheme](#) - Government-backed Masters loans are available
- Employer sponsorship
- University bursaries
- Trusts and charities
- Part-time work
- [Find out more about Sheffield Hallam's scholarships and bursaries on the corporate website here.](#)
- Have a look at the new [PhD portal](#) on the jobs.ac.uk website which gives essential advice on all aspects of applying for a PhD.
- Look at findamasters.com and findaphd.com for additional resources

Postgraduate study abroad

- Look at the [Prospects](#) guide to studying abroad
- Create a shortlist of suitable countries; [Prospects](#) has detailed information on study within the EU and overseas. If you are not confident enough to study in another language, are there courses within universities in that country which teach courses in English?
- For study in the USA, the [Fulbright Commission](#) has information on applying for courses, including funding information
- Interested in studying in Australia/New Zealand? [Study Options](#) has information on finding courses and how to apply.
- Use our suggested links to find out more about funding postgraduate study

Want to talk it through?

Contact Careers and Employability for further advice and support:

Phone: 0114 225 3752 Email: careers@shu.ac.uk