



## How to use the Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding

[The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#) is a web resource that UWS subscribe to, making it free for our students and prospective students to use. It includes a funding database of over 600 charities and trusts, and access comprehensive guidance on how to produce a high-quality application.

It truly is an excellent resources, but you'll only get the best out of it by using it effectively. This guide will help you do that.

### How to access:

You may come across the Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding when exploring the web information we have on [money, fees and funding](#). If not, you'll find this on our [Alternative Trusts & Scholarships](#) webpage.

Scroll to the sections titled 'Searching for your own funds' and you will find The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding alongside other organisations that we recommend you use to search for this type of alternative funding.

### How to sign up:

If you are not currently enrolled at UWS, send an email to us at [ago@uws.ac.uk](mailto:ago@uws.ac.uk) and we will respond immediately with a PIN.

Once you have this PIN, open [The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#) webpage and enter the PIN and your email address in the green box.

You will immediately be emailed with a personal username and password, giving you full access to this resource.

A screenshot of a registration form titled "Register for personal username/password". The form has two sections. Section 1, labeled "1 I'm a Current Student or staff member. Email me personal username and password!", has a "University Email:" label, a text input field, a "[?]" link, and a "GO!" button. Section 2, labeled "2 I am a prospective student. Email me personal username and password!", is highlighted with a yellow border and contains "Alternative Guide Pin:" and "Email Address:" labels, each followed by a text input field, a "[?]" link, and a "GO!" button.

**Register for personal username/password**

**1** I'm a Current Student or staff member. Email me personal username and password!

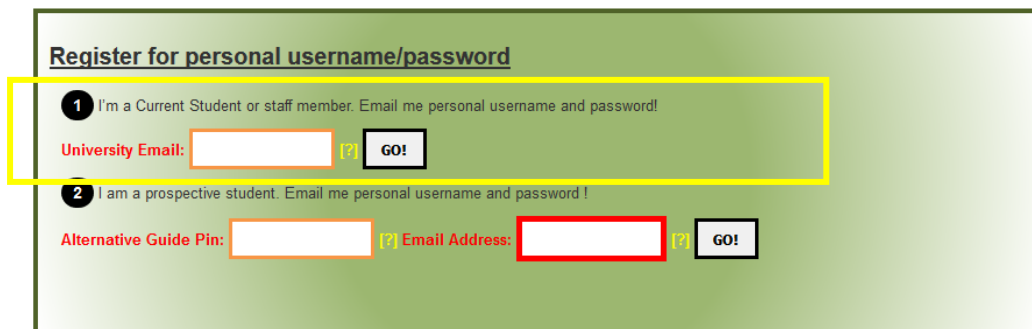
University Email:  [?]

**2** I am a prospective student. Email me personal username and password !

Alternative Guide Pin:  [?] Email Address:  [?]

If you are already a UWS student, open [The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#) webpage and enter your student email address (ending ac.uk) in the green box.

You will immediately be emailed with a personal username and password, giving you full access to this resource.



**Register for personal username/password**

1 I'm a Current Student or staff member. Email me personal username and password!

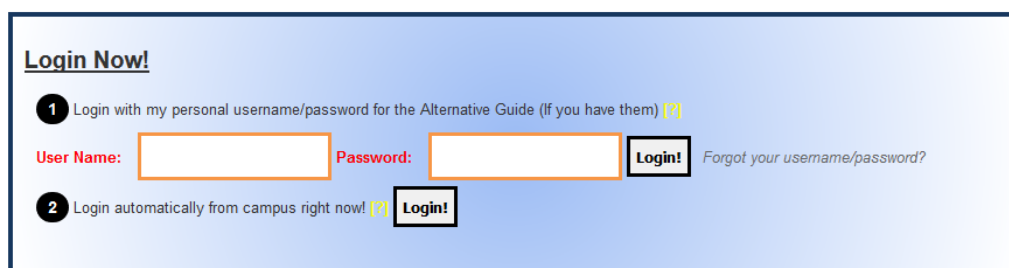
University Email:  [?]

2 I am a prospective student. Email me personal username and password !

Alternative Guide Pin:  [?] Email Address:  [?]

## How to log in:

Once you have been sent your personal username and password, you can use these to log in through the blue box on [The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding](#) webpage.



**Login Now!**

1 Login with my personal username/password for the Alternative Guide (If you have them) [?]

User Name:  Password:   [Forgot your username/password?](#)

2 Login automatically from campus right now! [?]

You are now ready to get the most out of the Alternative Guide to Post Graduate Funding. Using your personal username and password will ensure this is bespoke to you.

## How to use The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding:

There are a lot of features and guidance that will make this site work well for you, but it's important to remember that it will only work for you when you use it well, and put the effort in.

The general layout of each webpage includes:

THE ALTERNATIVE GUIDE TO  
POSTGRADUATE FUNDING

Search...

LICENCE

HOME

FOR STUDENTS

FOR STAFF

FUNDING DATABASE

ABOUT

OUR PRODUCTS


CONTACT

Logged in as Guest / Log Out

WON A GRANT?  
Prize Draw for Grant Winners!  
First Prize: £500  
Click Here to Enter!

INTRODUCTION  
The World of Alternative Postgraduate Funding:  
Charities and Trusts

Section 1: Introduction



START

SEARCH

DESKTOP

DOCUMENT

EDIT


PERSON

POUND

FAQ

VIDEO

Introduction




So, you're here to find out about alternative ways to fund postgraduate study? Welcome to *The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding Online* (AGO). Set up in 2013, the AGO is a one-stop shop to a crucial but underrated funding resource in the UK: **Charities**. Charities are all around us, helping good causes where they find them- and one of those good causes might be your Masters, PhD, or PGCE! It doesn't matter what your subject is, whether you're from the UK or from overseas, whether you're a current or a prospective student, or how good your academic record is. It also doesn't matter whether you need the money for fees, maintenance, or research expenses/ conference costs.

Charities aren't like conventional **public funders** like research councils and university scholarships, which **less than 7%** of students manage to get. They are also not like postgraduate loans. They are usually informal rather than academic, and anyone can apply to them- from postgraduate students to trainee builders to a residents association who want to renovate some a local park's play area! They have varying priorities- some will want to fund exciting academic research, others the training of skilled professionals, and many simply are concerned with helping cash-strapped students pay their fees and maintenance. The way you apply to charities is also completely different from public academic scholarships- they often have multiple deadlines a year, short application forms, and require financial statements.

Amounts you can win are £500-2,000 per award, year. However, you can build up a much larger sum through winning multiple awards! Our team leader won 45, and generated nearly £50,000 throughout his PhD! That said- **be realistic**. Charities are great for raising a few thousand pounds, but you will have to be unusually successful to raise very large amounts. So they probably won't pay for your course on their own- but they can certainly help a lot!

Sometimes charities' criteria is a little odd and even 'old fashioned': where you live, your age, your gender, your religion, your subject, what your parents do/ did for a living are all common eligibility questions. The Vegetarian Charity, for example, only funds vegetarian or vegan students, and the Leverhulme Trades Charities Trust supports the sons and daughters of grocers, pharmacists, and travelling salesmen! But many bodies are more general, and there are tens of thousands in the UK that all have different priorities. You just need to be able to find them the right bodies for you, and know how to apply to them in the correct manner. Very few students currently utilise the funding power of charities, so many bodies don't get many applications from postgraduate students.


**Charities: an alternative - but not a replacement - to Research Councils**




**Charities: an alternative - but not a replacement - to Research Councils**

How to use this Site to get Funding: 3 Key Stages

The *Alternative Guide Online* is designed to take you through each stage of apply to charity to gain postgraduate funding, stage by stage. There are **three key stages** to getting funding from charities, and this website is based around them



Read more about it!

 INTRODUCTION

Want more detail? Read this PDF for advanced information on this section. You can also **download this entire website** in book form at our **Download Point!**

DOWNLOADABLE PDF DOCUMENT

You are here: HOME > LICENCE > Introduction

Top

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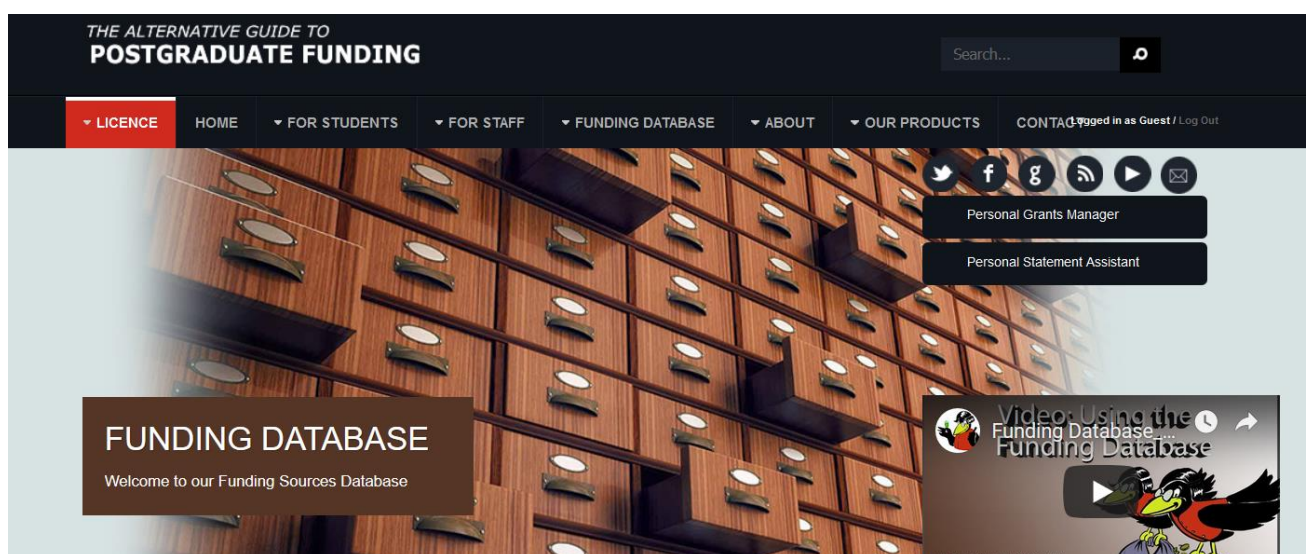
This means you can access the information in a way that best suits you.

## What to expect:

You'll find easy to navigate buttons that will help you find what you are looking for, and give you a start to finish approach to applying for funds.



You now have access to a funding database that boasts over 1000 funders. That's a lot! In order to get the best out of this, make sure you read all the information and tips on searching for funding and getting the most from this site.

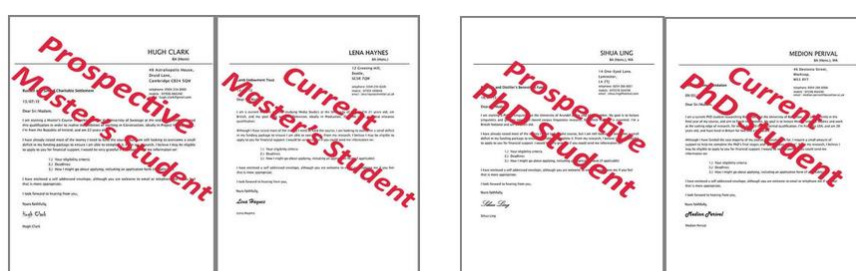


You can use this Database in conjunction with Personal Grants Manager, which will allow you to keep a record of the funds you might shortlist, and keep track of your application.

The Personal Statement Assistant can help you with your persuasive argument and how to structure your ideas.

The site offers lots of help and guidance, including sample letters for all aspects of applying for funds, from requesting application forms, to preparing a personal statement. Where the site gives this help, use it, but don't just copy and paste!

Remember, you are aiming to make yourself stand out, so make sure you personalise any letters or statements and make these bespoke to you.



When it comes to these funds, there will often be a requirement to include a financial statement. In some cases this will be because the funding organisation may be seeking to award their funds to those who demonstrate most financial need. In other cases, the organisation may simply want to get a picture of what you need an award for.

In any event, make use of the Financial Statement Assistant, which will help you prepare this information effectively.

#### Financial Statement Assistant

Financial Statement Assistant below will help you plan your financial statement smartly! Just choose **Version 1** if you are budgeting for **fees and maintenance** and **Version 2** for **research, travel, and conferences**.

Financial Statement Assistant will also calculate your deficit for you, and you can download your statement as a text document if you wish.



Welcome to Financial Statement Assistant. Would you like:

**VERSION 1** (fees and maintenance applications) or **VERSION 2** (research, travel, and conference applications)?

#### Version 1: Projected Income and Expenditure

Expenses		Income	
? Course Fees	£ <input type="text"/>	? Part-time Work	£ <input type="text"/>
? Rent	£ <input type="text"/>	? Grants	£ <input type="text"/>
? Utility Charges	£ <input type="text"/>	? Loans	£ <input type="text"/>
? Telephone	£ <input type="text"/>	? Savings Allocated	£ <input type="text"/>
? Food	£ <input type="text"/>		

Your personal statement might not be the biggest part of your application, but it is undoubtedly the most important. Your aim is to create a compelling personal statement.

With that in mind, pay particular attention to the personal statement section of the site, and the wealth of guidance and support on how to approach this key element of your application. This includes:

#### Model Personal Statement: Key Dos and Don'ts

Below we have three real example statements from students who applied to a charity, with comments from the trustees. Click on the students to view them! Note that the first statement (Opal) is a model statement, whereas the other two (Laurence and Julian) show you what not to do!



**STATEMENT 1:**  
*Opal*



**STATEMENT 2:**  
*Laurence*



**STATEMENT 3:**  
*Julian*

**MODEL PERSONAL  
STATEMENTS**

#### Personal Statements: Advanced Techniques

Most of what makes a good personal statement is generic and covered in the Basics section above: i.e. the above advice applies whoever you are, and whatever you want the money for. However, for those who want to take their application to the next level, we've got some extra tailored techniques for seven key student groups:

1. Students applying for Research, Travel, and Conference Costs
2. Fourth Year PhD Students
3. Masters Students
4. PhD Students
5. Part-Time Students
6. International Students (EU and non-EU)
7. Mature Students
8. Students attempting Crowdfunding

#### Personal Statement Assistant

**ADVANCED TECHNIQUES**

## **Help from real life:**

The site was designed and built by two individuals who very successfully used these approaches to secure funding. This network of success has grown and the site now features lots of case studies and stories that we hope will inspire you.

We won't lie...searching and applying for funds in this way involves a lot of work but the reward can be significant. We hope this guidance will help you get the most out of The Alternative Guide to Postgraduate Funding.