



Financial case studies for students training with the NCT from September 2012.



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Funding glossary:

Main Student Finance

This is available to everyone who doesn't already have a degree. It has two different components which are loans and grants;

Maintenance grants; these can be applied for if your household income is £42,600 or below. The amount available can be between £50 and £3250 with the maximum likely to be available to those with household incomes of £25,000 or below.

Tuition loans; this is for you to pay for your course fees. For 2012 the full amount you can borrow is £9000 for full time students and £6750 for part-time.

Maintenance loans; this is for your general course and living expenses, you can only have a maintenance loan if you are studying full time; the maximum you can borrow is £5500. You can borrow up to 65% of that without having your household income taken into account.

Student loans are set at comparatively low interest rates and you do not need to start paying them back until you earn £21,000 a year. When you are earning the rate you pay back is set against your salary so if you earn £25,000 you pay back £30 a month, if you earn £60,000 you pay £292.50 a month and there is a sliding scale between the two figures. Recent estimates suggest that only about half of people currently borrowing this way will ever pay it back! It is also worth remembering that student loans don't count towards your credit rating and Martin Lewis the financial whizz sees them as 'good' loans that we should take full advantage of to help with studying.

Other Loans and Grants (Available to those with a degree)

A Professional and Career Development Loan is a bank loan.

You make an agreement with a participating bank to borrow an amount between £300 and £10,000. Then once you've stopped studying, you pay it back in the normal way.

The difference is that the Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest on your Professional and Career Development Loan while you're studying – and for one month after you've left your course. These loans are available for students who already have a first degree and those who wish to study part-time.

Parent's Learning Allowance: The Parents' Learning Allowance helps towards your course costs, such as books, materials and travel. You could get between £50 and £1,508 for 2012/13 depending on your household income.

This is non-repayable.

Childcare Grant: The Childcare Grant could cover as much as 85 per cent of your childcare costs during term time and holidays. If you're eligible, the amount you may get will depend on: your household income, the cost of your childcare and the number of children you have

This could be up to £148.75 per week if you have one child or £255 per week if you have two or more children. **This is also non-repayable.**

Further funding options

Access to learning fund

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

Child tax credits

Dependant on your family income, you may be eligible for tax credits. This could be worth up to over £8000 per year if you have three children. You can contact the tax credits helpline via the website www.direct.gov.uk and find out exactly what you may be able to get.

NCT Opportunities Fund

This is still being finalised but we aim to be able to offer some financial support for students who are suffering financial hardship which could prevent them from studying. Please ask the Admissions Manager to let you know when we have more information.

Grants and Trust Funds

These are non-repayable financial payments which a variety of bodies across the UK make to a range of students. The amount varies hugely and the organisations are often set up to fund women returners to work or study, those on lower incomes, single parents or people residing in a particular area of the UK. A good place to start your search is: www.turn2us.org.uk/grants

Case studies for NCT funding

Case Study 1



Marie has A' level qualifications; her partner earns **£26,000 per year** and they have **two children**. She wants to do the **full-time** NCT Training.

The cost for Marie's first year of training will be **£6000** which can be paid in instalments in October, January and April. She will be eligible for a **maintenance grant** as her family are well below the threshold of £42,600. Her family income will be assessed and an exact figure will be decided, this could be about £3250 which will take the amount she has to pay down to £2750. She may also be able to get further funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to another £1508 which will lower the amount she owes further.

She has various options for paying the rest of the fees:

Marie is eligible for **full student finance** so can apply for a **loan**, she could get a **tuition fee loan of up to £9000**. An interesting note here is that the financial expert Martin Lewis suggests that you always borrow the maximum no matter how much you may need. This could then be used to fund further training with the NCT or to supplement your family income. The loan is then paid back at a low interest rate when (or if) you earn above £21,000 per year. How much you can borrow depends on other funding you gain.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Marie is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

A **maintenance loan** of up to **£3875** would give her some money for travel and other course costs. She does not need to start paying this back until she is earning over £21,000 a year.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Marie can seek support to find sources of local and specific grant funding she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 1b – if Marie wanted to train part-time: all students training part time are eligible for less funding as they incur lower costs and could potentially still do paid work as they trained.

The annual fee for her two year course would be £3000 which as above could be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

As Marie doesn't have a degree, she is still eligible to apply for a **tuition fee loan** through student finance, this is up to **£6750** so would pay for two years full training. She then won't need to start paying the loan back unless she earns over **£21,000 a year**.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Marie is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Marie can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 2



Shobana is currently at home full time with her two children; her partner earns **£25,000 a year**. She has a degree and she wants to undertake the NCT's full time training.

The full cost of Shobana's first year of training will be **£6000** which she could pay in three instalments in October, January and April. She won't be eligible to apply for student finance due to her previous qualifications. She may be able to get funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to **£1508**.

In order to pay the rest of her fees:

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Shobana is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Shobana can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 2b – if Shobana wanted to train part-time

Her two year course would then cost £3000 per year which as above can be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Shobana is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Shobana can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 3



Anna has two young children, a previous degree and wants to undertake NCT's full time training. Her partner earns **£35,000 per year** and that is their total household income.

Anna's training will cost £6000 for her first year which she can pay in three instalments in October, January and April. She won't be eligible to apply for student finance due to her previous qualifications. She may be able to get funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to **£1508** dependant on family income.

In order to pay the rest of her fees:

She could apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Anna may still be a candidate if her family has high outgoings. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

Finally – Anna can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 3b – If Anna wanted to train part time:

Her two year course would then cost £3000 per year which as above can be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Anna may be a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

Finally – Anna can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 4



Helen has two children and a previous degree, her partner earns **£45,000 a year**. She wants to undertake NCT full time training.

The cost for Helen's first year of training will be £6000 which she can pay in three instalments in October, January and April. She won't be eligible to apply for student finance due to her previous qualifications. She may still be able to get funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to **£1508**. This amount can differ dependant on family income and family outgoings are assessed and considered when applying. If they have high outgoings as a family, they may be more likely to be able to get grant funding or help from the University Access to learning Fund.

In order to pay the rest of her fees:

She can apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Helen may still be a candidate if her family has high outgoings. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

Finally – Helen can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 4b – If Helen wanted to train part-time

Her two year course would then cost £3000 per year which as above can be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Helen may still be eligible if her family has high outgoings. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

Finally – Helen can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 5



Anneka is a single mother to one child; she is currently receiving jobseekers allowance and housing benefit. She wants to undertake NCT training full time. She has A level qualifications but no degree.

Anneka's first year of training will cost £6000 which she can pay in three instalments in October, January and April. She will be eligible for a **full maintenance grant** as her family are well below the threshold of £42,600. Her family income will be assessed and an exact figure will be decided, this could be about **£3250** which will take the amount she has to pay down to **£2750**. She is also likely to get further funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to another **£1508** which will lower the amount she owes further.

She has various options for paying the rest of the fees:

Anneka is eligible for **full student finance** so can apply for a **Tuition fee loan** which can be **up to £9000**. The loan is paid back at a low interest rate when (or if) you earn above £21,000 per year. How much you can borrow depends on other funding you gain. She can also take out a **maintenance loan** of up to **£3875** which would give her some money for travel and other course costs.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Anneka is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Anneka can seek support to find sources of local and specific grant funding she may be eligible for from charities and trusts. As a single mother and a returner to education; there may well be grant giving bodies who seek to support women like her to improve their career prospects.

Anneka should also talk to her local **Jobcentre Plus** so that she can find out her entitlement to other financial support which could include **Jobseekers allowance, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit and Child Tax Credit.**

Case Study 5b – if Anneka wanted to train part-time:

Her fees for each of the two years would then be £3000 which as above can be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

As Anneka doesn't have a degree, she is still eligible to apply for a **tuition loan** through student finance, this is up to **£6750** so would pay for two years full training. She then won't need to start paying the loan back unless she earns over **£21,000 per year.**

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Anneka is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant.**

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Anneka needs to contact her local **Jobcentre Plus** as she is likely to be able to still claim benefits as a part time student; this may still apply if she decides to do some paid work too.

Finally – Anneka can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts. Many of these grants are set up specifically to help women returners to work and single parents.

Case Study 6



Alison left formal schooling after GCSEs but her life experience since then shows that she would be an ideal candidate for NCT training and is capable of the academic demands of the course. She has one young child and a partner who earns **£22,000 per year.** She wants to do the **full-time** NCT Training.

The cost for Alison's first year of training will be **£6000** which can be paid in instalments in October, January and April. She will be eligible for a maintenance grant as her family are well below the threshold of £42,600. Her family income will be assessed and an exact figure will be decided, this could be about £3250 which will take the amount she has to pay down to £2750. She may also be able to get further funding from the Parent's Learning Allowance which could be worth up to another £1508 which will lower the amount she owes further.

She has various options for paying the rest of the fees:

Alison is eligible for **full student finance** so can apply for a tuition fee **loan** which will **be up to £9000**. The loan is paid back at a low interest rate when (or if) you earn above £21,000 a year. How much you can borrow depends on other funding you gain. She can also take out a **maintenance loan** of up to **£3875** which would give her some money for travel and other course costs. She does not need to start paying this back until she is earning £21,000 or over a year.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Alison is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Alison can seek support to find sources of local and specific grant funding she may be eligible for from charities and trusts, she will particularly suit the aims of some of the grant giving bodies as she is a returner to education and from a lower income family.

Case Study 6b – if Alison wanted to train part-time: all students training part time are eligible for less funding as they incur lower costs and could potentially still do paid work as they trained.

The annual fee for her two year course would be £3000 which as above could be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

As Alison doesn't have a degree, she is still eligible to apply for a **tuition loan** through student finance, this is up to **£6750** so would pay for two years full training. She then won't need to start paying the loan back unless she earns over **£21,000 per year**.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students and parents so Alison is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could also apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Alison can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 7



Claire qualified as a midwife a year ago but has been unable to find a post. She wants to undertake NCT training in order to further her career prospects. She lives with her parents and has no children. She is currently claiming Jobseeker's Allowance. Because she already has her midwifery degree, she won't be eligible for student finance. The cost for Claire's first year of training will be **£6000** which can be paid in instalments in October, January and April. She has various options to pay her fees and living expenses:

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This includes mature students so Claire is a good candidate to apply. This is a **non- repayable grant**.

She could apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate. This is probably the best option for students in Claire's position.

If she wanted to study **full time** she would be unlikely to be able to continue to get Jobseeker's allowance. If she studied **part time** then she could still claim. She would need to talk to an advisor to find out her eligibility. She could work part time and study part time and may still get Jobseeker's Allowance.

NCT is currently working on an **opportunities fund** which we hope will offer some financial support to students who are experiencing financial difficulties. Details are still being finalised.

Finally – Claire can seek support to find sources of local and specific grant funding she may be eligible for from charities and trusts, she will particularly suit the aims of some of the grant giving bodies as she is a midwife and wants to work with families and further her own education. She is also currently unemployed which would be within the scope of some bodies.

NB – If Clare decided that she wanted to continue her studies with the NCT, once she reached a higher level than her degree, she would be able to access student finance again.

Case Study 8



Michelle applied to train as a midwife but did not get a place. She has been looking into NCT training with the idea of still training as a midwife in the future. She lives with her parents and currently is being supported by them. Her parents' joint income is £40,000. Michelle has A' level qualifications and wants to do the **full-time** NCT Training.

The cost for Michelle's first year of training will be **£6000** which can be paid in instalments in October, January and April. She will be eligible for a **maintenance grant** as her family are below the threshold of £42,600. Her family income will be assessed and an exact figure will be decided, this could be about £3250. She has various options for paying the rest of the fees:

Michelle is eligible for **full student finance** so can apply for a **loan**. She should be able to get the full tuition fee loan of up to £9000. The loan is then paid back at a low interest rate when (or if) you earn above £21,000 per year. How much you can borrow depends on other funding you gain. She can also take out a **maintenance loan** of up to **£3875** which would give her some money for travel and other course costs. She does not need to start paying this back until she is earning £21,000 or over a year.

The University of Worcester has an **Access to Learning Fund** which can give between £100 and £3500 to students who are suffering financial hardship or difficulty. This is a **non-repayable grant**.

Finally – Michelle can seek support to find sources of local and specific grant funding she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 8b – if Michelle wanted to train part-time: all students training part time are eligible for less funding as they incur lower costs and could potentially still do paid work as they trained.

The annual fee for her two year course would be £3000 which as above could be paid in instalments. She could use the following options to help her pay the funds:

As Michelle doesn't have a degree, she is still eligible to apply for a **tuition loan** through student finance, this is up to **£6750** so would pay for two years full training. She then won't need to start paying the loan back unless she earns over **£21,000 a year**.

She may be able to apply for a **career development loan** which can be between £300 and £10,000. The Skills Funding Agency will pay the interest until a month after the qualification ends and the interest rates are set at a low rate.

Finally – Michelle can seek support to find sources of local and specific **grant funding** she may be eligible for from charities and trusts.

Case Study 9



Charlotte lives in Wales with her partner and their three children. She has A level qualifications and is not currently in employment. Her partner earns **£25,000** per year. The situation in Wales is that students who have not studied to degree level before will not have to pay fees any higher than **£3465**. (Individual situations do need to be double checked to ensure they meet the criteria). Eligible students can get a **Tuition Fee Grant** to pay any amount over the £3465 capped amount. They can get a **Tuition Fee Loan** to pay the remaining fees.

There is also an **Assembly Learning Grant** also known as a **Living Costs Grant** for Welsh students of up to **£5000** per year; families on **£18,370** per year or less will be eligible for the full amount and families from this income level up to **£50,020** will receive some of the grant on a sliding scale.

Charlotte can also access a **Maintenance Loan** of up to **£4745**. There is a really useful illustration of entitlement based on your income on page 12 of the following guidance document:

http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/pls/portal/docs/PAGE/WPIPG001/WPIPS002/WPIPS069/WPIPS108/WPIPS109/SFW_GUIDE_NEWSTUDENTS_ENGLISH_1213.PDF

Charlotte can also look into accessing the **University of Worcester's Access to Learning Fund** as well as the **NCT's Opportunities Fund**.

A further note about Welsh students: if you have accessed higher education before, you may still be eligible for funding; you need to talk to **Student Finance Wales** to check your individual situation.

If you wish to study **Part-Time** there will be differences in entitlements; again this differs dependent on your situation; the following link may help you find out what you could get:

http://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/portal/page?_pageid=616,6201863&_dad=portal&_schema=PORTAL

A note about European students:

To the best of our knowledge, EU students will be eligible for student finance in the same way as UK students if they don't have a degree already. We can therefore signpost them to Student Finance UK. They may be able to get further funding such as grants or welfare assistance depending on where they live. The following links may be able to give them somewhere to start:

<http://www.worcester.ac.uk/community/representatives.html>

<http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/UniversityAndHigherEducation/StudentFinance/StudentsFromOtherEUCountries/index.htm>

Final point: These case studies are examples; each student can access the University of Worcester's student support service to explore their individual situation. The University of Worcester student

finance can also signpost towards information on childcare costs, specific help for students with adult dependants or with disabilities.