

# 24 **Obtaining sponsorship**

Obtaining sponsorship can be a useful way to pay for your university studies. There are various opportunities available, including sponsorship for sports and sponsorship by a potential employer. The opportunities vary considerably and depend, in part, on the course that you wish to study at university and what you hope to do after you graduate. These funding opportunities are discussed in this chapter.

## **Sponsorship for sports**

Individual scholarships and bursaries are available for students who display exceptional talent for their chosen sport. Some of these bursaries are offered as part of the university bursary scheme (see Chapter 12), while others are special scholarships that are funded by universities, private organisations and/or alumni (previous students of the university).

Eligibility criteria, application procedures and amounts of funding vary according to the type of bursary or scholarship, with amounts usually ranging between £500 and £4,000 per annum. Most bursaries will be offered on the basis of financial need, performance, actual skill or expected potential. Individual bursaries and scholarships are designed to help with some or all of the following:

- to enable access to training and coaching facilities;
- to help with travel costs and other costs associated with competition;
- to ensure that the required academic support is available;
- to ensure that students are able to concentrate on their sports and studies, and not worry about lack of finance.

Consult the websites or prospectuses of universities in which you are interested for more information. Most universities will not accept an application until you have been offered a firm place at the university. However, you should apply before the start of the academic term to make sure that payments are made as soon as possible.

## Company sponsorship

Some companies are willing to sponsor students through their studies by providing an agreed sum of money for one, two, three or four years of study. Contracts will vary considerably. If a company offers a significant amount of money, you will be expected to work for it for a certain number of years after completing your studies.

However, this type of sponsorship is now quite rare. Instead, companies tend to offer smaller sums, providing working opportunities through vacations and during sandwich years or placements. This type of sponsorship tends not to tie you into working for the company once you have graduated, although many students find that they are offered a job on successful completion of their course. Indeed, the 'Everything you Wanted to Know' website points out that many companies take 60 per cent or more of their graduate intake each year from students who have been on sponsorship or placement programmes (details below).

In general, companies are interested in vocational courses or those that provide the opportunity for work placement. The following subject areas tend to receive the most sponsorship:

- engineering;
- sciences (particularly physics);
- information technology and computing;
- financial management;
- business management;
- banking;
- economics;
- medicine;
- dentistry.

Many of the big companies, especially in construction, banking and accountancy, offer sponsorship; consult their websites, or contact them direct for more information. Professional bodies, such as the Institution of Civil Engineers (details below), will offer sponsorship deals, as will some government departments. Details of this type of scheme can be found on the Hot Courses 'Scholarship Search' website (details below). Armed Services sponsorship is available with the Army, Royal Air Force, Royal Navy and Royal Marines (see below).

## Amount of funding

The amount of money offered varies enormously, and will depend on what you and the company want to get out of the agreement. Some students may receive a large sum that is enough to cover tuition fees and living expenses for three or four years; in some cases this may be up to £9,000 a year. If you receive this type of sponsorship, the company will need to make sure that you pay back what you have been given in terms of how long you work for it after graduation. You will need to sign a contract in which you agree to their terms and conditions, so you must check that you are happy with these before you sign.

Other companies will give small amounts of money, maybe for specific projects, or for only one year of study. This could be any amount up to £3,000. In these circumstances you may not be tied into a long-term contract with the company.

## Making an application

Most companies will want to know that you have been offered a university place before they will consider sponsoring you. However, some companies work closely with specific universities so, if you know that you want to follow this route, contact the company in which you are interested prior to making your UCAS application. That way you can make sure that your choice of university and course is suitable for the company.

Applying for sponsorship is similar to applying for a job, especially if you will be working for that company during the vacations or when you have completed your studies. You will need to show that you are keen to work for the company, are committed to your studies and will not break

any contract that you have signed. Application procedures vary from company to company, but in general you will need to complete an application form and attend a selection interview (see quotation below).

*Rory, 20, third-year student, Bournemouth*

There was me and nine other people. We had to go for a whole day and do all sorts of things... we had a tour then we split into pairs [to] do some weird tasks, you know, like build a bridge with match sticks. There were four people watching us all the time... Then we had a meal and met people on the graduate programme and talked to them. Then we had a test and then we had individual interviews... I got offered a place so I had to work for them in the summer and then they gave me £3,500 for my final year... I will work for them when I finish.

## Armed Services sponsorship

If you are sponsored by the Armed Services you will be expected to serve for a set period of time after graduation. Also, you may be expected to attend weekend training sessions and summer camps while you are studying at university. If you leave any one of the Armed Services before the service commitment is concluded, you can be asked to repay the whole of the cash advance. There are several types of sponsorship available, as described below.

### The Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme

The Defence Technical Undergraduate Scheme (DTUS) is run jointly by the Royal Air Force, the Royal Navy, the Army and the MOD Civil Service. The scheme is available to undergraduates studying an accredited engineering or scientific degree course at one of the following universities:

- University of Southampton;
- University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne;
- Aston University;
- Northumbria University;

- Loughborough University;
- University College London;
- University of Oxford;
- University of Cambridge.

As an undergraduate on the scheme, you are offered a bursary of £4,000 for each year of your studies, an additional grant of £33 to pay for you to attend the Support Unit within the university and a salary of £14,025 per year (pro rata) for work placement during the summer vacations (2009 figures). You (or your parents or guardians if you are under 18) must agree to pay back the money if you fail to complete your studies or leave your chosen Armed Service before serving three years (unless you leave due to medical reasons).

For more information about the scheme, including eligibility criteria, visit [www.desg.mod.uk](http://www.desg.mod.uk). Application forms and tutor reference forms can be downloaded from this site.

## Royal Air Force sponsorship

The Royal Air Force offers five types of funding, in addition to the DTUS described above, for students who want to continue their studies and are interested in a career with the RAF:

- A sixth-form scholarship of up to £2,000 is available for upper sixth-form students who wish to become RAF officers.
- Free tuition and a maintenance grant are available for students from low-income families who decide to study for their A-levels at the Defence Sixth Form College at Welbeck. Visit [www.welbeck.mod.uk](http://www.welbeck.mod.uk) for more information about the college and the funding that is available.
- University sponsorship of up to £4,000 is available to university undergraduates who are preparing for a career in the RAF.
- Medical sponsorship of up to £50,000 for the whole course is offered to students who are studying to be doctors before joining the RAF.
- Dental sponsorship of up to £30,000 for the whole course is available for students who are studying to be dentists before joining the RAF.

For more information about careers in the RAF and sponsorship deals, visit [www.rafcareers.com](http://www.rafcareers.com). If you wish to speak to a careers adviser you can telephone (0845) 605 5555. Alternatively, contact the Armed Forces Careers Liaison Officer via careers staff at your school or your local Connexions office.

## Royal Navy sponsorship

There are five types of sponsorship, in addition to the DTUS described above, available for students who want to continue with their studies and are intending to join the Navy:

- A scholarship of £1,050 per year is available for A-level students who intend to serve as officers in the Navy once they have completed their studies. If you are in receipt of this sponsorship you can go on to apply for a bursary during your studies at university.
- A standard bursary of £1,500 per year is available for university students in the arts who wish to join the Royal Navy once they have completed their studies. The bursary is available for each year of study and does not limit you to a particular area of study.
- Technical bursaries of £4,000 per year are offered to students who wish to study an engineering subject at university and then join the Navy once they have completed their studies.
- A university cadetship is available for people who really want to join the Navy and who decide to become officers before studying for their degree. You have to complete one full year of naval training before beginning your degree course and you are paid an annual salary during your studies.
- Medical and dental cadetships are available for medical and dental students on accredited degree courses. This scheme pays a 'substantial' salary for the last three years of study.

More information about sponsorship by the Royal Navy can be obtained from [www.careers.royalnavy.mod.uk](http://www.careers.royalnavy.mod.uk). Alternatively, you can request specific information and advice by ringing the Recruitment Line on (08456) 07 55 55.

## Army sponsorship

There are five types of funding available to students who want to continue with their studies and intend to enter the Army:

- The Army FE Bursary Scheme offers £4,000 (£1,000 each year for up to three years and £1,000 on completion of the first stage of Army training) to students aged 16–32 who are thinking about going into further education. You will be prepared for work in the Army while you study and will be required to commit to serving for four years in the Army when you have finished your course.
- The Army sixth-form scholarship provides your parents with £1,500 per year while you complete your last two years of schooling. You are guaranteed acceptance at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) and must complete three years in commissioned service.
- The Army Undergraduate Bursary of £6,000 for a three-year course, £7,000 for a four-year course or £8,000 for a five-year course is offered to students who wish to study for a degree and who are willing to commit themselves to a minimum of three years in service after they have graduated. In addition to this you will need to attend the 44-week officer-training course at the RMAS.
- Welbeck College is the Army's sixth-form college. It offers a two-year residential A-level course for students who wish to enter one of the technical branches of the Army. Tuition is free, although a means-tested parental contribution will be required. Membership of the Combined Cadet Force is compulsory, but you will remain a civilian while you are studying at the college. For more information visit [www.welbeck.mod.uk](http://www.welbeck.mod.uk).
- The Army Undergraduate Cadetship Scheme offers an annual salary of around £14,000 for the last three years of study and a book allowance of £150 for applicants interested in joining the Army as doctors, dentists, nurses or veterinary surgeons.

For general information about the range of opportunities in the Army, you can telephone (08457) 300 111. For information about joining the Army as an officer and for sponsorship opportunities, visit your local Army Careers Office or consult [www.armyjobs.mod.uk](http://www.armyjobs.mod.uk).

## Summary

There are a variety of organisations that offer sponsorship for your university studies. These include private companies, professional bodies and the armed services. Eligibility criteria and application procedures vary, so contact the organisation in which you are interested for more information specific to your circumstances. If you are a talented sports person, contact individual universities to find out what sponsorship is available for your chosen sport.

It is possible to obtain additional funds for university study from a variety of local and national educational trusts and charities. These issues are discussed in the following chapter.

## Further information

*The Sponsorship and Funding Directory* (published by Hobsons) lists scholarships and sponsorship available for students. It should be available in your public library or from your school careers office.

## Useful websites

### **[www.connexions-direct.com](http://www.connexions-direct.com)**

More information about sponsorship and the opportunities on offer to school leavers wishing to continue their education is available on this site. Alternatively, visit your local connexions adviser for more information.

### **[www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk)**

Visit the 'sponsorship' section of the Hot Courses website to find out what opportunities are available. The listings provide details of the amount of sponsorship, duration, application opening and closing dates, number of awards and subject area. There is also a link to the relevant sponsor's website.



268 How can I pay, as a student?

### **[www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com](http://www.everythingyouwantedtoknow.com)**

Visit the 'job/placement' section of this site to find out about sponsorship, placement and graduate opportunities.

### **[www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk)**

This is the website of the Institution of Civil Engineers. Here you can find more information about their undergraduate scholarship scheme, which currently offers £3,000 per year and work placements during the summer vacation.

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