

## It is possible to get a grant to allow you to study for a part time degree for FREE

If you don't already have a degree and would like to study part time for an undergraduate level course there are a couple of grants to help pay for course fees and cover other study costs. The grants apply to all part time courses including the **Open University** if you'd like to study at home. Unionlearn have also negotiated with Open University and University of Birkbeck College a 10% discount for members of TUC affiliated unions.

In England, NI and Wales, there are two types of grant, the **Fee Grant** (to cover the cost of the course) and the **Course Grant** (to help pay for other study costs such as books, stationery, travel to classes or computer/internet access).

The amount you can get depends on where in the UK you live and your **household income**, which for these grants means the combined income of you and a partner you live with (but not your parents).

**If you receive income based benefits** (e.g. Income Support, Income JSA, Income ESA, council tax or housing benefit) or have a household income around £17,000 (more if you live with a partner or have children) you can get a full grant, but incomes up to £28,000 can still be eligible for a partial grant. You can also apply for one grant each year, for a maximum of six years.

Additional grants of up to £15,000 are available for students with disabilities and learning difficulties (including dyslexia) to help cover additional costs such as specialist equipment or support due to your disability.

**Discretionary Learner Support** is available in colleges and sixth form colleges to help with learning costs if you are aged 19 or over.

The funds are prioritised for those who face financial hardship. They can be used to help with:



- financial hardship and emergencies
- childcare costs (for Ofsted-registered childcare)
- accommodation costs, for those who have to study further than the maximum distance from home
- essential course-related equipment, materials and field trips
- travel costs

You can find more information on our website [www.unionlearn.org.uk](http://www.unionlearn.org.uk) in Supporting Learners (IAG) section; Higher Learning and Funding Directory