

Northumberland College Career Development Loan



Learner Information 2009/2010

A Career Development Loan (CDL) is a personal bank loan which is designed to help pay for learning in further education. The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) pays the interest on your loan whilst you are learning and for up to one month afterwards. You are then responsible for repaying the loan over an agreed period at a fixed rate of interest.

What can Career Development Loans pay for?

There are three main elements that can make up a CDL and you can apply for a loan to cover one or more of these elements (between £300 and £8,000 over two years)

- Course fees - 80% of your course fees or 100% of your course fees if you have been out of work for three months or more at the time of application
- Other course costs e.g. books, equipment, childcare etc
- Living expenses e.g. fuel, rent, council tax. These costs must not be covered by any other grants or state benefits. You must not work more than 30 hours per week if you claim for living expenses.

Am I eligible for a Career Development Loan?

In order to be eligible for a CDL you must meet the requirements of the bank to which you are applying and be:

- Aged 18 or over
- Ordinarily resident in England, Scotland or Wales with an unlimited right to remain in the UK
- Unable to pay for the course yourself
- Intending to work in the EU, Iceland, Norway or Liechtenstein after you complete your course
- Be enrolled on an eligible course

Other restrictions do apply, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/cdl or call 0800 121 8989 for more information.

How to Apply

It is advised that you apply for your loan well in advance of your course starting. (Barclays and the Royal Bank of Scotland accept applications three months before the course begins and the Co-operative bank accepts applications six weeks before.)

Please contact one of the above banks for more information about the application, payment and re-payment processes.

