Welcome to the July e-newsletter from the LSC providing information about the new Professional and Career Development Loans.

Apply now for courses starting in September and October!

Taking on a Professional and Career Development Loan is a big commitment. Learners must think carefully about how much money they need to borrow and how much their repayments will be.

They will also need to complete their application well in advance of when they need support for their learning - applications to the participating banks can take between six weeks and three months – so if their course starts in September or October (e.g. for a postgraduate course) they should apply for the loan now.

To apply for Professional and Career Development Loans, learners should call 0800 585 505 to request an application pack.

Marketing materials to help you promote the new loans are available to order.

Please call the helpline on 0800 585 505. Sample copies of the leaflet are available to view at http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/

In this edition of the e-newsletter, we will cover:
• Success of the events held in Scotland and Wales
• Case study of how loans have helped fund learning
• Where to find more information
Hurry! There are still spaces available at the Professional and Career Development Loans events on the 22\textsuperscript{nd} and 23\textsuperscript{rd} July in Manchester and London.

For more information on these events and to register attendance, please visit [www.livegroup.co.uk/pcdl](http://www.livegroup.co.uk/pcdl)

To coincide with the launch of Professional and Career Development Loans, the LSC have been holding events across the UK to raise awareness of the loans: explaining the key benefits and eligibility criteria; how learners can get more information and how you can help to raise awareness of the loans to potential learners.

In June we held events in Scotland and Wales; visiting Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Cardiff.

We have had feedback from those of you who attended these events, where you told us that you now have a much better awareness and understanding of Professional and Career Development Loans. You also indicated that having the opportunity to discuss the loans with other attendees and ask questions to the policy team was a really useful feature of the sessions.

Some comments from the events during June:

“Clear, concise presentation outlining pertinent points. Questions answered fully. Thank you!

Felt overall event was informative and relevant.

Opportunity to raise issues and discuss concerns as we went along was useful.”
You told us that you would like more information on your role within and beyond your organisation, including how best to promote the scheme to learners. As such, we have outlined some key actions below that you might want to consider:

- **Order marketing materials** for Professional and Career Development Loans to display at careers events at your organisation and to distribute to interested learners.

- **Put information about Professional and Career Development Loans onto your websites**, or in your literature on financial support for learners, directing them to www.direct.gov.uk/pcdl to find out more information.

- **Provide advice and guidance to learners**, particularly around the process of choosing a learning provider and the risks associated with taking out a loan.

- **Pass on information about Professional and Career Development Loans to colleagues** and partner organisations to increase awareness about the availability of the loans.

For answers to some of the questions you raised, please view our Frequently Asked Questions on our website: http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/faqs

If you have any additional questions that are not answered by these, please email your query to pcdl advise@lsc.gov.uk
Case Study: Thomas Inker’s experience

Approaching the end of his undergraduate history degree, Thomas, 26, from Gerrards Cross, knew that he wanted to study further. He successfully applied for the full time, one-year MPhil course in Modern History at the University of Cambridge.

Thomas' next move was to explore how he could fund the course and his living expenses. Researching postgraduate funding options on the internet, Thomas came across CDLs and was pleased to discover that he could apply for one.

The loan application was straightforward: the specialist CDL team at the bank through which he secured the loan was easy to deal with and he was impressed with the time taken to approve the loan and release the funds. His loan was for just over £6,000, and covered college and school fees, as well as contributing towards his research costs.

While completing his course, Thomas joined the university law society and met representatives from a range of law firms, a move which helped him secure a training contract with a prestigious City law firm who will fund his 2-year stint at law school from September 2009.

As his course ends in June 2009 he has yet to repay the loan but is confident that he will be able to do so over the 5-year repayment term he has agreed with the loan provider.

"I took out a Career Development Loan to take a postgraduate course at the University of Cambridge. The loan gave me the opportunities I would not have otherwise had, and without it I would have been unable to secure a training contract at a leading City law firm. The only other avenue available to me was a standard bank loan, but this would have been a far more expensive option."
To help you promote Professional and Career Development Loans with potential learners as an option for helping to pay for learning that enhances their job skills or career prospects, we have various supporting material for you.

1. **LSC website**
   - Visit [http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/](http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/) for FAQs and other resources for advisers

2. **Email LSC**
   - [pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk) for answers to specific queries

3. **Leaflets/posters/business cards**
   - Call 0800 585 505 to place orders

4. **Briefing Sessions**
   - Visit [www.livegroup.com/pcdl](http://www.livegroup.com/pcdl) for more information

**Regular e-updates**

For the next few months we will issue an updated e-newsletter to keep you informed about the latest developments for the new loans. The e-newsletters will be available online, however, if you would like to receive a copy by email please let us know at [pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk](mailto:pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk)

To view previous editions of the Professional and Career Development Loans e-newsletter, visit [http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/resourceadvisors/](http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/resourceadvisors/)