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

Based on your feedback, we have drafted some approved wording on Professional and Career Development Loans for your website

At the events that were held in June and July this year, we mentioned that we would provide you with some wording that you could use to raise awareness of the loans to learners on your websites and promotional materials.

This is detailed later in this e-bulletin and you can find this within the Requirements for Registration as a Learning Provider, which can be downloaded from the website at http://pcdl.lsc.gov.uk/lprequirements

To raise awareness of the loans with learners you can also order leaflets, posters and business cards by calling the helpline on 0800 585 505.

In this edition of the e-newsletter, we will cover:

- Approved wording for your website
- Level of awareness of the loans
- Upcoming events
- Case Study of how the loan helped to re-train someone as an osteopath
- Where to find more information
Approved wording for your websites

In order to further help you to raise awareness of the loans to learners, we have provided some text that you can use on your websites and in your promotional materials. If you are a registered provider with the programme you can include the following text and your registration number on your website and in your prospectus.

Professional and Career Development Loans are bank loans that can be used to help pay for work-related learning. You can borrow between £300 and £10,000 to help support the cost of up to two years of learning (or three years if it includes one year’s relevant unpaid practical work). The Learning and Skills Council will pay the interest on the loan while you are learning and for one month afterwards. The loan can be used to pay course fees or other costs such as travel and living expenses. You can also use the loan to supplement other forms of support such as grants or bursaries.

Because the Professional and Career Development Loan is a commercial loan product, they should only be considered as an option once all other student funding options have been investigated.

For further information on financial assistance to support your learning, please visit www.direct.gov.uk/adultlearning or contact Careers Advice Service on 0800 100 900.
Since the re-launch of Professional and Career Development Loans in July 2009, the level of interest in the loans from learners calling the helpline has more than doubled compared to the same period last year.

Approximately 50% of learners heard about the scheme via Learning Providers or intermediaries, such as Jobcentre Plus or Careers Advice. This demonstrates the hard work that you have done in raising awareness of the loans.

As more learners request information on the loans and begin the application process, we hope to provide you with more information on the number of loans approved by the participating banks and the typical learner characteristics of these applicants.

In the coming months we are attending a number of events, aimed at information, advice and guidance advisers, student services advisers, employers, careers advisers and potential learners.

In September we presented at the AGCAS Biennial Conference; in October we are due to exhibit at The Independent Postgraduate Fair in Manchester and the NAEGA conference in Darlington.

If you have any events coming up that have the potential to reach learners or key stakeholders, let us know and we can support you by providing messages and leaflets, posters and business cards to display and distribute to learners, colleagues and partner organisations.

Please contact us by emailing pcdladvicedl@lsc.gov.uk
Case Study: Declan’s experience

In each issue of this e-bulletin we will be giving examples of how the loans (previously known as Career Development Loans) have helped a number of people gain qualifications to improve their longer term career prospects or re-skill to start a new career. We hope these case studies will provide real life examples for you to use with learners.

Since leaving school, Declan, 30, had nursed a long-term ambition to become a physiotherapist or osteopath. However, after graduating from university with a degree in human biology, he taught science at a secondary school for three years before taking the decision to re-train as an osteopath.

He secured a place on a five-year degree course at the College of Osteopaths and studied whilst teaching on a full-time basis for the first three years. However, knowing that the fourth and fifth years focussed more heavily on practical clinical learning, he investigated funding options that would enable him to work on a part-time basis and study on a part-time basis too.

Having looked into a number of options, Declan successfully applied for a CDL to cover most of the fees for the final two years of his course.

Declan recently passed the course and finished teaching part-time at the end of July 2009 before launching his new career as an osteopath.

“Taking out the loan enabled me to study the final two years of my osteopathy course on a part-time basis. As a result I was able to focus more clearly on passing the course and after qualifying I plan to set up my own osteopathy practice.”
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

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### 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)