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For more information visit
www.londonhigher.ac.uk

LONDONHIGHER
Promoting and Advocating London's Higher Education

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Electronic copies of this leaflet are available at:
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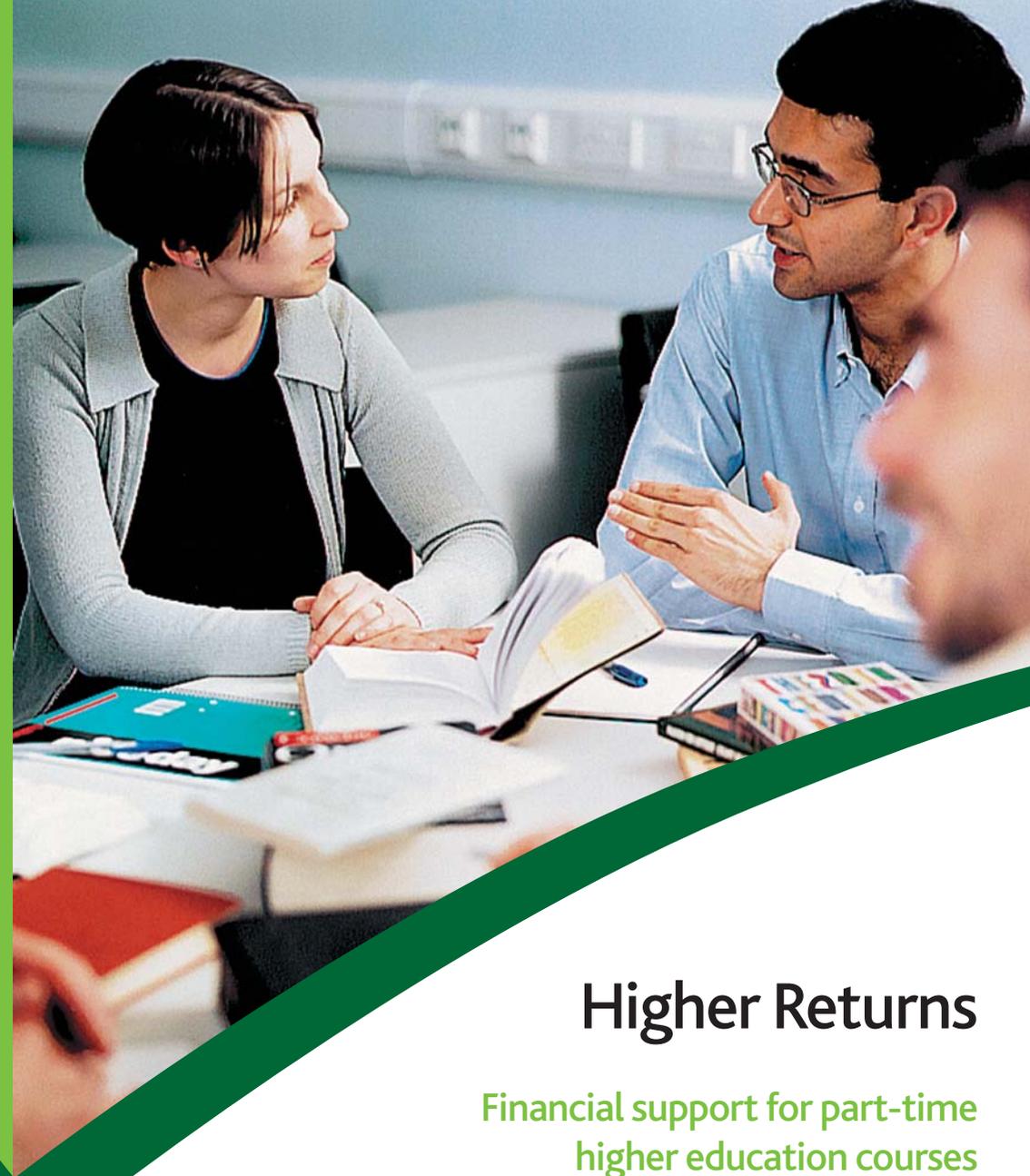
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Design and Print by Abbey DPM.
This publication is supported by funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

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PTHEF0908

*"Learning is a treasure that
will follow its owner everywhere"*

Chinese Proverb



Higher Returns

Financial support for part-time
higher education courses
2008/2009

Source: Some of the information in this leaflet has been taken from 'A guide to financial support for part-time students in higher education 2008/2009' (Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, 2008) and www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance and has been reproduced under the terms of the Click-Use Licence and is subject to Crown Copyright protection.

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Did you know that financial support is available from the Government for employees who study for part-time higher education (HE) courses?

Part-time education provides your employees with the opportunity to enhance their professional and workplace skills enabling your business to gain a competitive advantage. Read on to find out how to access the Government funding available.

What financial support is available?

- A **fee grant** of up to **£1,180** a year (towards tuition fees). This is non-repayable and paid direct to the education institution.
- A **course grant** of up to **£255** a year (towards books, travel expenses and other course costs). This is non-repayable and paid direct into the employee's bank account in one lump sum.
- Extra financial help may also be available for eligible employees.

The fee and course grants depend on the employee's income and if the employee has a partner and/or children. The maximum fee grant available depends on the intensity of the course.*

Intensity of course (rate of study)	Maximum fee grant	Maximum course grant	Total maximum support
75% or more full-time course intensity	Up to £1,180 a year	£255	£1,435
60% to 74% full-time course intensity	Up to £945 a year	£255	£1,200
50% to 59% full-time course intensity	Up to £785 a year	£255	£1,040

*Go to www.londonhigher.ac.uk/services-ptfunding.html to work out course intensity.



Study

Examples of financial support available:

An eligible employee who is single (i.e. an employee without a partner or dependants) could be entitled to:	
Income (including London Weighting allowance)	Entitlement
below £16,090	the full fee and course grants
between £16,090 - £24,280	a partial fee grant, the full course grant of £255
between £24,281 - £24,874	no fee grant, the full course grant of £255
between £24,875 - £26,825	no fee grant, a partial course grant
£26,826 and over	no fee or course grants

An eligible employee who is married, has a civil partner, or is living with a partner (of either gender) with:
- no dependent children with a joint income up to £28,825 could be entitled to a partial grant
- two dependent children with a joint income up to £31,825 could be entitled to a partial grant

Who's eligible?

- Employees must be studying for a part-time HE course at a publicly funded UK education institution.
- Employees must be studying at a rate equal to 50% or more of an equivalent full-time course (so employees must be able to complete the course in no more than twice the time it would take to complete the equivalent full-time course). The course must last for at least one year.
- Employees who already have a degree cannot usually apply for fee or course grants.
- Employees are not entitled to fee or course grants for more than one part-time course at a time.
- Employees can be new students or continuing their studies.
- There is no age limit.
- Eligibility is not dependent on employment status.

What to do next?

- Visit www.londonhigher.ac.uk/services-ptfunding.html to find out more, including answers to FAQs and how to apply.
- Download the booklet 'A guide to financial support for part-time students in higher education in 2008/2009' from www.direct.gov.uk/studentfinance or order a copy by telephoning 0800 731 9133.
- London's HE institutions offer an extensive range of part-time courses, so visit www.londonhigher.ac.uk.

This leaflet applies to the 2008/2009 academic year for employees living in England and is for guidance only and does not cover all circumstances.