



>LSC

Leading learning and skills

Professional and Career Development Loans e-newsletter – January 2010

Welcome to the January edition of this e-newsletter from the LSC providing information about Professional and Career Development Loans.

We are keen to improve our communications to you. If you have any feedback on this publication please email us at pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk. If you would like to be added to (or removed from) the distribution list, please also email us at this address.

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

- **Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)**
- **Events**
- **Skills Sectors**
- **Marketing**
- **How to find out more**

Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA)

You may be aware that from 1st April 2010 the Learning and Skills Council will no longer exist and will transfer to the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) and Skills Funding Agency (SFA). The Learner Support Directorate will operate under the YPLA and will continue to administer Professional and Career Development Loans. We will update you with any further information on this, and any changes to contact details through this e-newsletter.

Please continue to raise awareness of Professional and Career Development Loans to potential learners.

Events

Feedback from briefing event in Northern Ireland

As you are aware, Professional and Career Development Loans were re-launched in July 2009, offering a number of improvements on the long standing Career Development Loans.

To raise awareness of Professional and Career Development Loans in Northern Ireland, we hosted a briefing event at the end of November at Queens University in Belfast (this followed on from other events held in Scotland, Wales and England). This event was well-attended, and information presented on the Programme was well-received. We would like to thank all of you who attended this session.

You can access presentation slides from the briefing sessions in July on the Professional and Career Development Loans website, and we will update the FAQs on this site to include any additional issues raised at the session.

Upcoming events

We continue to raise awareness of the Programme amongst potential learners. On 20th January the team attended the *Postgraduate and MBA Careers Fair* from the Careers Group at the Business Design Centre in Islington, to raise awareness of Professional and Career Development Loans amongst those learners thinking about doing further study in the coming academic year. We received a positive response from attendees and there was a steady stream of interested people throughout the day.

In the coming months, the team will have materials available at the National Career Guidance Show, taking place on 3rd and 4th March at the Emirates Stadium in London, and the Guardian Graduate Fair taking place on 23rd and 24th June. We will update you with feedback from these events, and details of any more scheduled events as they come up.

If you have any details of other conferences or exhibitions that would be relevant for Professional and Career Development Loans, please email these to pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk. We can arrange for leaflets to be delivered to events you may be hosting if this is appropriate.

Skills sectors

Over the past few months we have been giving you details of how you can raise awareness of Professional and Career Development Loans to learners, particularly those wanting to go onto further, postgraduate study.

We are currently working on identifying particular sectors which have identified a skills gap, and which may be useful to help guide you to potential other areas, building on work done so far, where awareness of the Programme can be raised. More further information will be provided in the next issue of this e-newsletter.

Marketing

Publications and campaigns

Information on Professional and Career Development Loans have been published in The Times' *A-Z of Careers and Jobs*, which is a key source of choice for anyone who is starting out in – or looking to change – their career. This is available to buy at most book shops.

There will also be information on the Programme included in the Prospects postgraduate magazine *PG2*, which will be available at Student Services around the country during March to May. This magazine is also available to download digitally, at <http://www.nxtbook.com/gp/postgrad/2009summer/#/0>.

Marketing materials

As you are aware, we also have leaflets, posters and business cards available for you to order by calling **0800 585 505**, for you to use to raise awareness of Professional and Career Development Loans. Please continue to order and use these materials, and to distribute them to potential learners interested in applying.

How to find out more

We would like to remind you of the support materials that are available to help you to raise awareness of the loans to potential learners. These are all available to access from the Professional and Career Development Loans website:

- **Quick Reference Guide:** Outlines the basic eligibility criteria for Professional and Career Development Loans
- **Seminar Presentation:** The presentation from the briefing events held in Summer 2009 is available to download.

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/> for FAQs and other resources for advisers

2 Email LSC pcdladvice@lsc.gov.uk for answers to specific queries and to sign up to the e-bulletin

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