

Press Release
For Immediate Release



Free Degrees:

How to Fund Your Own Education and Avoid Student Debt

By Lyndi Smith, £6.95, PB, White Lion Press, Published in May 2009

"It is clear that many students are sleepwalking into financial crisis. As the credit crunch kicks in, and with food and fuel costs set to rise even further, we can expect more and more students to get into serious financial difficulty, with many having to resort to taking out commercial loans, or being bailed out by their parents. Our research shows that prospective students need far more information, advice and guidance about how to manage their own finances."

- Wes Streeting, president, National Union of Students

With the average cost of student debt rising to between £15,000 and £20,000, and the added risk of afterwards, entering a job market that's deep in recession, there are tough times ahead for students. It is feared that many may be deterred from going to university at all. But education needn't come at such a price. There are numerous options available to focused and motivated individuals; it's just a case of knowing where to start.

Packed with information and first-hand advice, ***Free Degrees*** is the ultimate guide to raising the money you need to fund your own university education. Author Lyndi Smith had no previous experience of fundraising, yet she managed to raise over £25,000. Ineligible for a grant or a student loan, she won support from trusts and bursaries, businesses and individuals, from neighbours and friends to the country's 150 richest people. She organised fund-raisers, put on plays, and flew to Milan with musician Declan Bennett on a sponsored jailbreak. And little by little, she raised the money that would help her to realise her dreams.

In ***Free Degrees***, Lyndi shares the secrets to her success. Learn how to budget and manage your finances. Develop your communication and publicity skills, and learn how to market yourself in a positive light. Devise a fundraising strategy, and discover practical tips and creative ideas for putting on events and securing sponsorship. The information in this book will not only help you to raise the money that you need, but also help to improve your confidence, and develop skills that will prove invaluable in later life. ***Free Degrees*** will give you the low-down on what resources and fundraising options are open to you, and the inspiration to go out there and get them. The rest of course, is up to you...

"Fear of debt is a real issue that concerns universities. Government, universities, schools and colleges - all those involved - must continue to ensure that all those who can benefit from going to university are not deterred from doing so by the prospect of debt."

- Diana Warwick, chief executive, Universities UK

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