

Free excerpts
from



Free Degrees

How to fund your own education,
without debt

by Lyndi Smith

Thank you for visiting
www.degreesforfree.com and
downloading *Excerpts From
Free Degrees!*

Excerpts From Free Degrees
contains some extracts from
Free Degrees. Some of the
content has been paraphrased to
help you get the essence of
raising the money you need for
your education.



If you really want to know the inside secrets to raising over £25,000 to train, invest in my book *Free Degrees*, priced at £6.95 and published by The White Lion Press.

It's great value for money and is a simple step-by-step guide that can help even the most inexperienced fundraiser to pay for their degree, without debt.

I hope you find the information helpful, and should you need more help, please check out www.degreesforfree.com. It's full of free information for your fundraising. There are loads of articles, tips and free downloads, information about me and how I raised tens of thousands of pounds to train, and a monthly newsletter *The Funraiser*, packed full of tips and the latest updates on student finances.

I hope you enjoy reading *Excerpts From Free Degrees*, and please contact we at www.degreesforfree.com if you have any questions, or to let me know about your own fundraising campaigns!

Best wishes,

Lyndi Smith

Learn all of my secrets to raising £25,000 for your education when you buy *Free Degrees!* www.degreesforfree.com

First Things First

The first thing you need to do is get a place on the course of your dreams! Put your ideal course first and don't worry about the money right now. The important thing is that you choose the school or college that is right for you.

Your local careers office can help you do this.

Find out about the cost when you are accepted for interview. The college will ask you how you intend to pay for university. Tell them confidently that you have worked out how much you need and have a fundraising strategy to raise every penny.

If they ask further questions, pull out a pre-prepared copy of your fundraising budget! We'll go into that later.

Know What You Want

Research the costs. Call the university you are going to, call their students union, call their local city council – find out exactly how much you will pay for both your tuition fees and maintenance costs.

Break the costs down into an expenditure budget. List the costs per year in your budget in all of the different headings, e.g.

Room (£75 per week x 52)	£3, 900
Water (per year)	£ 150
Electricity (£125 quarterly x 4)	£ 500
Gas (£50 quarterly x 4)	£ 200
Food (£20 per week x 52)	£1, 040
Books (per year)	£ 100

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Equipment (per year)	£	150
Travel costs (£30 per week x 52)	£1, 560	
Other local taxes (per year)	£	300

Multiply the costs per year by the number of years you will be attending.

Now you have your financial target!

The Strategy

Get some friends together and brainstorm ideas for fundraising activities.

Now create a fundraising schedule by listing your ideas as events, with projected dates, and projected amounts of money you hope to raise.

Student Grants and Appeals

Free Degrees goes into more detail about student grants and appealing against any adverse decisions from your local education authority. For more free information, contact your local LEA through the city council.

Charitable Trusts and Grantmaking Organisations

There are thousands of foundations and trusts that give money to individuals for all kinds of reasons. Start by researching the charitable foundations and trusts that you are eligible for. The internet or a local library should be your starting point here.

Read the application criteria very carefully as this is different for every single trust and foundation. Each application can take several hours so you only want to spend time on applications that you are 100% eligible for.

Submit applications to them with as much supporting documentation as you can find that proves how much you and your family earn.

Sponsorship

Sponsorship is different from applying to charitable trusts. Here, a business agrees to sponsor you. It is a two-way process – you get money and the business gets to raise their profile while being seen supporting a good cause.

Identify potential sponsors from companies you have links with, from local businesses in the phone book and by writing to the Chief Executives of national profitable companies.

Make sure you think carefully about what you can offer each company, and spell this out in your communication.

Raising Your Campaign Profile

Free Degrees goes into more detail about dealing with the media, gaining publicity and issuing press releases.

Fundraising Nights And Sponsored Events

Organising people and co-ordinating one-off events can be one of the most fun and rewarding fundraising experiences out there!

The types of events that you hold are limited only by your imagination! Whether you are running a sponsored event or a ticketed evening's entertainment, you can raise thousands of pounds and have a lot of fun at the same time.

By asking for donated goods, you can bump up your takings by holding raffles and auctions. Holding competitions is also a great way to get people to dip their hands into their pockets. Everyone wants to be a winner!

Writing To Individuals

Individuals are essential for moral support. You will definitely need lots of this on your fundraising journey! And even if a famous person cannot contribute money, how about getting a quote from them that wishes you well?

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That can certainly inspire others to give more.

Individual giving is sometimes called patronage and people will do it for lots of different reasons. Start with your friends and family, and then ask them who they know in their own network that might be able to help you. Accept every bit of help you are offered! Even £5 brings you a step closer to that dream total.

You might also research famous people in your industry, or alumni of your university and write to them to ask for help.

Thank you for downloading Excerpts From Free Degrees!

I hope you have enjoyed reading it and that the information here has helped inspire you to raise over £25,000 for your own studies!

Lyndi Smith, March 2009

Initial investment: £6.95.

Potential return: up to £26,000.

Contrary to what many believe, education doesn't have to come at a price.

Anyone can raise the funds necessary to pay their way through academic life, without getting into debt.

Drama student Lyndi Smith was overjoyed when she secured her place on a three-year course at RADA. But it came with a price tag of over £26,000. Ineligible for a grant or a student loan, Lyndi set out to discover what other resources were available to her. Without any prior experience, she constructed a fundraising campaign that raised over £26,000. In *Free Degrees*, Lyndi shares her fundraising secrets with you.

For just £6.95, Lyndi explains and illustrates what it takes to raise money to pay for education, start to finish. What better investment could there be for yourself, or as a present for a son, daughter or anyone just about to start on the road to life?

(Published by The White Lion Press, 2009.)

Buy *Free Degrees* now for only £6.95 [here!](#)

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Free Degrees can be purchased through www.degreesforfree.com.

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