

5 Ways PhD Students Can Earn Money while Studying

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Most [grad students](#) face this dilemma at one point or another: the stipend they receive (if they receive one at all) just isn't enough to get by. You generally don't have a lot of time to contribute to an outside job but you need the money, so it's key to find one with the highest possible hourly rate.

Here are a few of the most popular part time jobs for grad students:

Bartending/Wait Staff

You can make a good hourly wage bartending and serving, especially if you're a people person. And, the hours can be flexible—days or evenings—around a crazy grad student schedule. Even if you've never done this before, many places will still hire you. And when it's slow, you can catch up on your reading or have a co-worker run through your oral exam flashcards with you.

Tutoring

Find a moderately wealthy neighborhood, especially one where many children go to a private school, and put up posters in the local café advertising tutoring by a [PhD student](#). Families will often pay upwards of \$50 an hour for you to help junior with his 7th grade math homework.

Freelance Writing

Especially for grad students in the humanities, finding work as a freelance writer can be easy and can afford you a decent hourly rate. Look online at websites that provide you such opportunities.

Related: Are you a PhD student looking for work? [Check out these “earn while you learn” options!](#)

Freelance Textbook Editing

Many textbook publishing companies use “subject-matter experts” to help them write their textbooks. You are a subject matter expert! Ask around and see if any of your colleagues have done this work. If not, the next time you’re at a conference, find a few of the major textbook publishers in your field and ask them about contract work.

Teach a Class at a Local Library or Community College

Look in your area for [local libraries](#) and community colleges that offer courses. What can you teach that these places might want to offer their students? Your courses can often resemble a 100-level intro college class, so this is good experience.

While there are plenty of other jobs you can do—babysitting, errand running service, coaching, or substitute teaching at a local school. These jobs are few that will get you the best pay per hour, at least in the United States. Other ideas? Leave a comment and share the wealth!

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