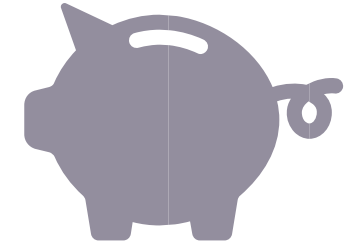
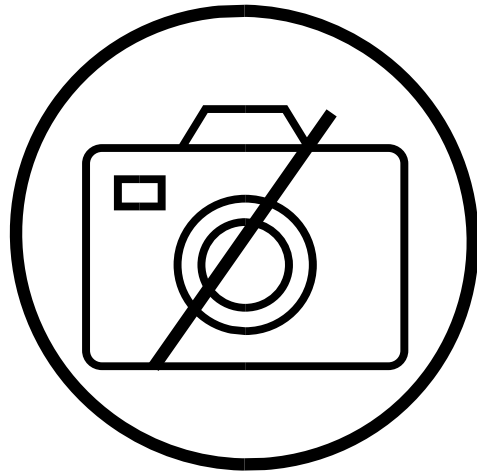


Pre-Arrival Money Masterclass: Money Management

Welcome 2025-26



This session is being recorded



We ask that all participants keep their cameras and microphones off during the presentation.

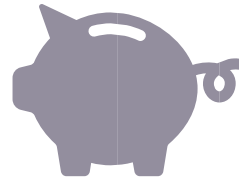
Any questions can be asked in the Q&A section and will be answered at the end of the session.

What will we cover?



Student

bank accounts



Budgeting



Increasing income

and cutting costs



Online Blackbullion Tips from current platform students

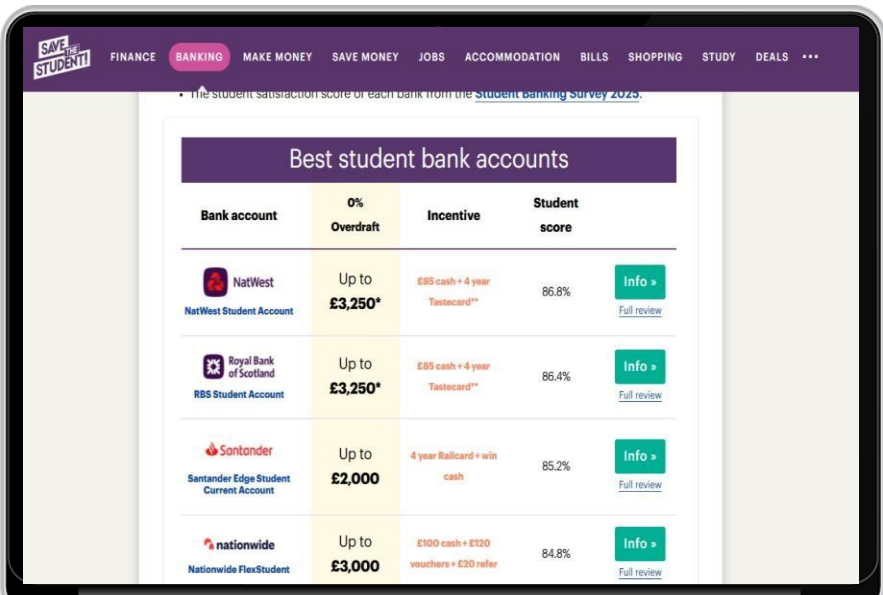
UK student bank accounts

Student current accounts usually have particular benefits for students. You can also get online bank accounts, such as Revolut or Monzo.





To open a UK bank account, you will likely need:

- Your passport / visa documents
- Student ID
- Student status letter (from eVision)

You can compare student bank accounts on sites such as Save the Student or Money Saving Expert.



The screenshot shows the 'Best student bank accounts' section on the Save the Student website. It features a table with four columns: Bank account, 0% Overdraft, Incentive, and Student score. Each row represents a different bank's student account, with links to 'Info' and 'Full review' for each.

Bank account	0% Overdraft	Incentive	Student score
 NatWest Student Account	Up to £3,250*	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.8% Info » Full review
 RBS Student Account	Up to £3,250*	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.4% Info » Full review
 Santander Edge Student Current Account	Up to £2,000	4 year Ballcard + win cash	85.2% Info » Full review
 Nationwide FlexStudent	Up to £3,000	£100 cash + £120 vouchers + £20 refer	84.8% Info » Full review

(Source: Save the Student 2025)

Student current accounts



The most important factor:

How easy will it be to manage your money effectively?

(Source: Natwest, other banks are available)

Overdrafts and credit cards

There are both positives and negatives of overdrafts and credit cards.

They can be really useful if you need to borrow money in the shortterm, but it's important to avoid relying on them.

There are useful guides on overdrafts and credit cards on the Blackbullion financial education portal.



If you find that you're starting to accrue debt through credit cards, overdrafts or loans (including BNPL, e.g. Klarna), please reach out for support.



Budgeting

It's important to learn how to budget effectively to make sure you can meet all your expected costs (and unexpected ones too).

Budgeting is a skill that you can develop during your time at university, which you will use throughout your life.

Building a budget (and sticking to it) is a great way of keep on top of your money. Being organised will ensure that you don't run out of money in the first few weeks.

What should I budget for?

There are a variety of living costs that you will need to consider while at university. These could include:



Accommodation
(rent / mortgage)



Food and toiletries



Household bills
(if applicable)



Clothes



Travel

Laundry

Course materials
(e.g. printing, books...)

Laptop

What should I budget for?

You will also need to budget for the non-essential things. These could include:



Meals out and Live...)



Gym membership Subscriptions



Beauty treatments takeaways (e.g. Netflix, Xbox



Premium clothing



Leisure



Holidays



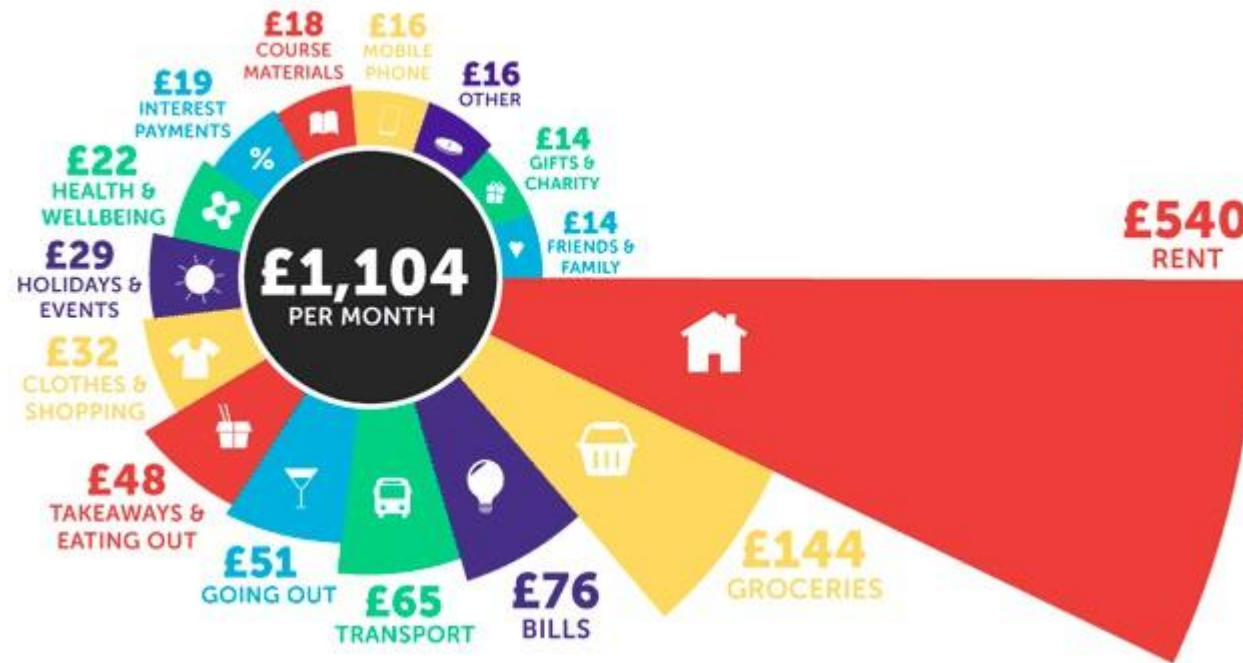
Phone contract

(e.g. nights out, cinema...)

How much do students spend?

The National Student Money Survey 2024 asked students at universities across the UK to estimate how much they spent on different categories each month. The average student spends...

(Source: Save the Student)



How to build a budget

Since maintenance loans are paid in only 3 instalments across the year, it can be difficult to plan your finances around this.

Our free budget planner helps you to break down your expected income and expenditure across the year to help you to identify financial difficulties in advance, so that you can make changes and seek support in advance.

Scan the QR code to save the webpage and download it later:

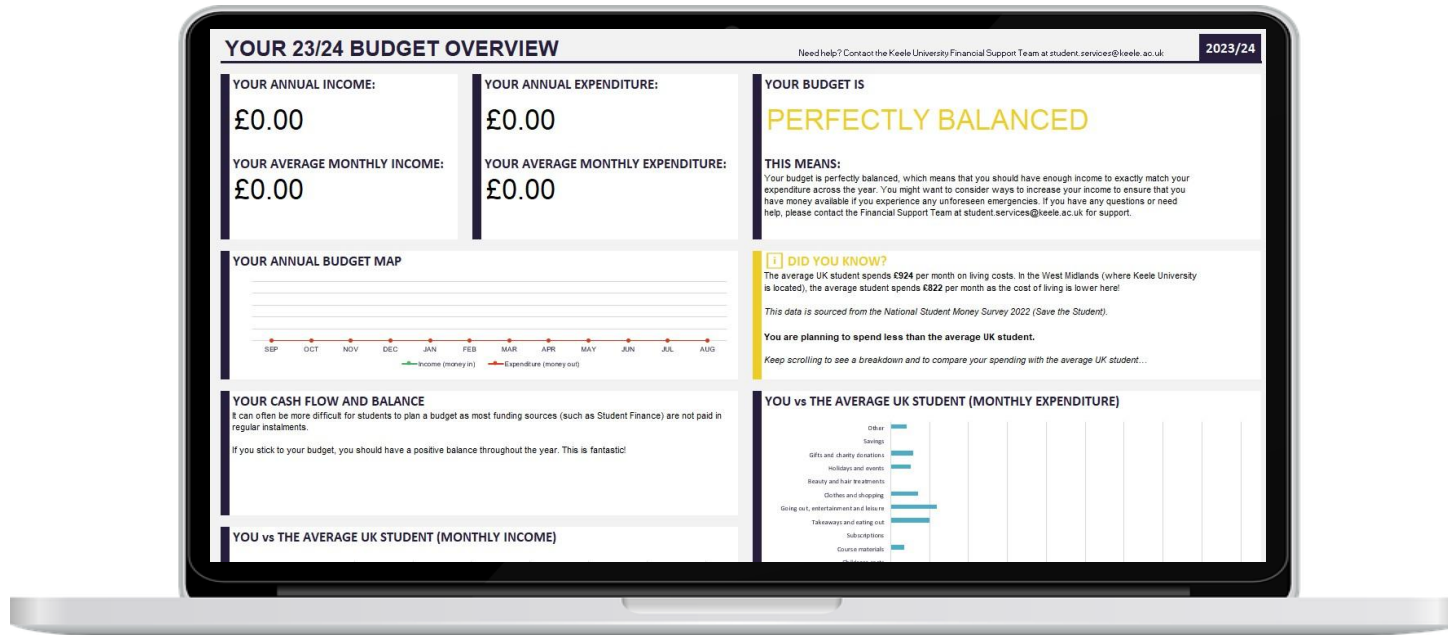


Or head to:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/studentfinancialsupport/livingcosts/>

How to build a budget

Once you've created your budget, you will be able to see whether your finances are balanced, your annual map and comparisons against average student spend.



If your income is less than your expenditure, then you will need to make changes to keep your finances balanced by increasing your income and cutting your costs.

Increasing your income

You may want to speak to your family to see whether they would be able to contribute to your living costs.

There are a number of opportunities for work within the University such as working for the Student Union and working as a Student Ambassador.

There are also lots of casual and part-time roles available in the local area.

Part-time and casual work not only brings additional income but develops more skills to enhance your employability.

Please contact our Immigration Compliance and Advice team if you need any advice or guidance on work restrictions relating to your visa.

Cutting your costs

Take a look down your budget and for each cost, consider whether it is a **need** or a **want**.

For all of the things that you need, explore whether there is a cheaper alternative. There are some fantastic examples on *Save the Student* and *Money Saving Expert*.

For all of the things that you want but don't need, consider whether you could either cut this out, or reduce your spend.

Take a look at some of the digital resources on the Student Financial Support webpages for more money-saving tips.

Saving money on food



The cost of food in the UK has increased over the past few years, with some products significantly more expensive than others.

There are lots of ways you can save money on food:

- Cook food in bulk and freeze portions
- Look out for discounts on food close to its 'use by' date
- Register for loyalty cards (Tesco Clubcard, Co-Op Membership...) and save these digitally on your phone
- Branded food can often be much more expensive
- Save takeaways for special occasions

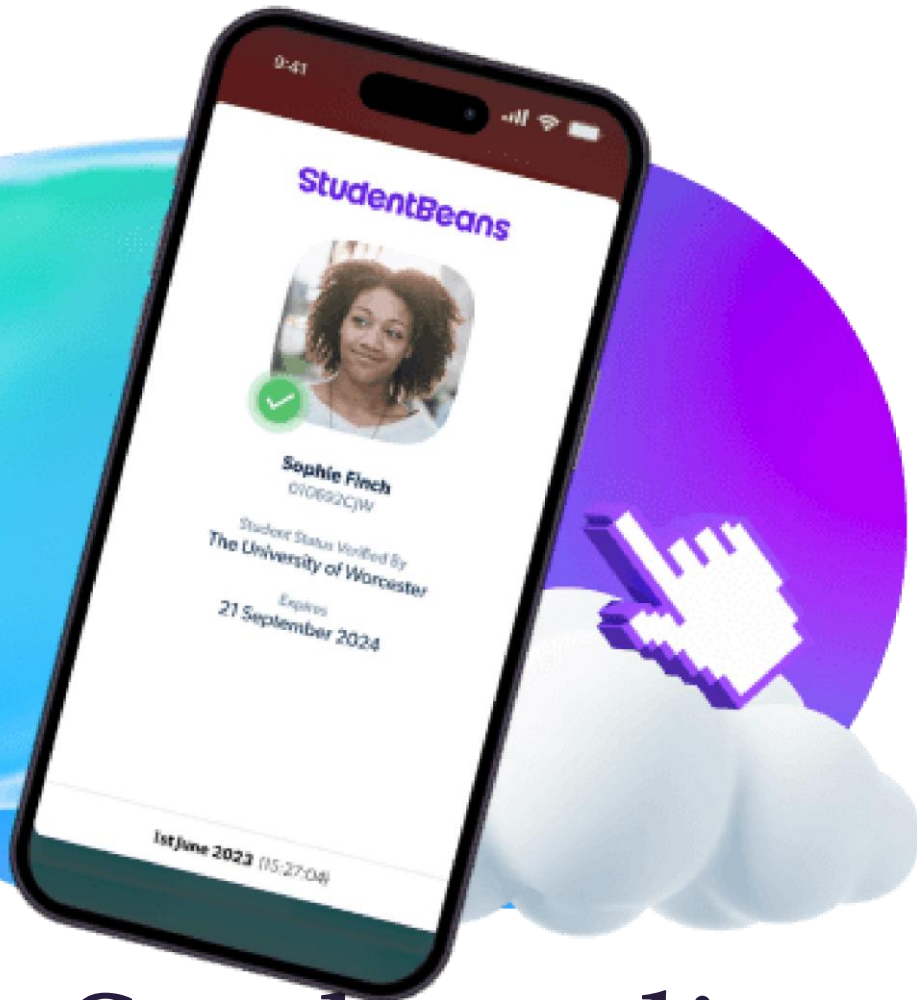
Small sacrifices for big rewards



-
- Cancel your subscription to Netflix or Disney+
Save £8/month, or £96 over a year
-
- Reduce your phone contract by £20 a month
Save £20 per month, or £240 over a year
-
- Sacrifice one takeaway a week for a year
Save £15 per week, or £780 over a year

How would you spend the savings?

StudentBeans TOTUM® UNiDAYS



Up to 25% Student Discount
National Express
For students only • Online • Coaches



20% Student Discount
Greene King
For students only • Instore • Bars & Pubs



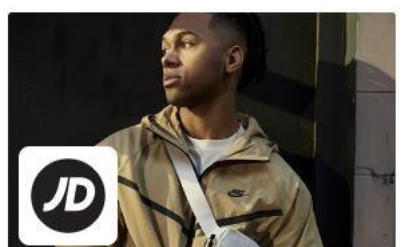
FREE Amazon Prime for 6 months
Amazon
For students only • Online • Entertainment



10% Student Discount on Womenswear
ASOS
For students only • Online • Fashion



Students! Get 10% off when you spend £40*
Dunelm
For students only • Online • Home & Garden



10% Student Discount
JD Sports
For students only • Online • Fashion

Student discount

StudentBeans

Exploring the UK on a budget



London and other major UK cities can be expensive but there are lots of ways to explore on a budget:

- Use the Trainline website to check for the cheapest train tickets to major cities
- Many museums are free
- Attractions may offer discounted student tickets
- Theatre kiosks sometimes offer discounted tickets
- Use the underground (tube) and public transport

- Compare overnight accommodation on apps such as Trivago or use AirBNB

Student travel cards

There is plenty of public transport across the local area, and you may find you rarely need to use a taxi.

Students can also often access discounts on public transport:



16-25 Railcard

- £35/year
- 1/3 off rail fares across Britain
- Can also be loaded onto a plastic Oyster card

First Potteries SMART bus tickets

- £4.80 for a day pass (£4.00 for a Keele Key Day*)
- £12 for a week pass
- £42 for a month pass

*with Keele student ID card

Blackbullion learning platform & app

Budgeting 101 - the smartest money move



Overview



What we'll cover

An overview of the topics discussed in this pathway. After finishing this pathway, you will be able to:
Explain what budgeting is, Recognize how important setting goals are to keeping to a budget,
Differentiate among fixed, variable, and discretionary expenses, Recognize the different types of budgets. Create a personal budget.

Save pathway

Lessons

What we'll cover

1 min

Overview

✓ Intro to budgeting

2 min

✓ Setting goals

2 min

✓ Income

3 min

✓ Expenses

4 min

✓ The nuts and bolts of budgeting

4 min



Final Challenge
Complete

Retake
challenge

Tips from current students



"Make sure you have something to eat before you go food shopping so you're less likely to buy snacks while you're there"



"Make a shopping list so that you only buy what you need"



Tips from current students



"Buy own brand food – it tastes the same and is usually loads cheaper"



"Buy clothes from affordable shops because they look just as good as designer clothes. And set yourself a limit when you go clothes shopping"



"Sell your old stuff on sites like Vinted or eBay rather than having loads of clothes, phones or games you don't use anymore"

Tips from current students



"Buy second-hand games and consoles instead of buy brand new"
"Buy a travel mug so you can make coffee at home rather than buying one everyday from a coffee shop"



"Buy a little lunch box that you can put some snacks in to take with you to places rather than buying snacks while you're out"



Tips from current students

"Don't be scared to say no if your friends ask you to go out and you don't have much money left. One night out isn't going to be worth struggling for the rest of the semester"



Q & A

Need advice and support?

Financial Support Team

student.services@keele.ac.uk