



Top money tips for new UK undergraduate students

- 1) Remember – your first instalment of student loan needs to cover all of your costs until January. Make sure you don't run out of money by planning ahead and working out a budget for the first term.
- 2) Paying for your accommodation should be your biggest priority – work out how much money you have left over once you've paid your rent.
- 3) If things go wrong and you run out of money **avoid payday loans at all costs**. Contact us about the interest free short-term [emergency loans](#) we have available.
- 4) If you are eligible, get a [student bank account](#) – check which banks offer interest free overdrafts for the longest period of time. Don't be tempted by freebies if they have no use!
- 5) Don't rush out and buy all of the text books on your reading list. Use the University Library and wait to find out which are core text books. You can often pick up second hand copies of text books.
- 6) Buying termly or annual [student travel](#) tickets will work out cheaper than paying a fare each time you travel. Remember you may also need to set aside enough money to travel home at the end of each term. You should try and book in advance to take advantage of cheap deals.
- 7) If you think you will have medical costs such as paying for prescriptions and dental treatment you should apply for help with health costs by completing an HC1 form. You can collect an HC1 form from the Student Advice Centre, Students' Union.
- 8) Use [local markets](#) to buy fruit, vegetables, meat and fish as this will be cheaper than supermarkets. Also try supermarket value brands instead of premium branded goods as this can save you a fortune.
- 9) Use your NUS card to get discounts and look out for offers, vouchers and deals to help you save money on nights out by signing up to websites such as Student Beans, Money Saving Expert and VoucherCodes. You can also sign up for loyalty cards for many shops which can save you money over time. Follow us on Twitter [@NCLMoneyMatters](#) for regular updates about local money saving deals and discounts.
- 10) Check you are receiving all of the funding you are eligible to. Are you getting the maximum student loan you are entitled to? Could you be eligible to receive a University scholarship? Contact the Student Financial Support Team by completing the online enquiry form: <https://my.ncl.ac.uk/students/contact> to check you are not missing out on anything.

- 11) If your utility bills (gas, electricity, water) aren't included in your rent make sure you shop around and get the best deals. Using comparison sites like [Compare the Market](#) and [MoneySupermarket](#) can help. Not sure about energy costs check out whatprice.co.uk for average costs to help with your planning.
- 12) Most students are entitled to some form of exemption or discount on [council tax](#). Check out your entitlement and make sure you complete the required forms as soon as possible.
- 13) Don't forget to sort out a [TV licence](#)! You could end up with a costly fine or a court appearance otherwise. Please note rules have changed since 1st September 2016.
- 14) Check your possessions are insured. Shop around to get the best deal, using comparison sites like [Compare the Market](#) and [MoneySupermarket](#) and check student specific sites like [Endsleigh](#) and [Cover4students](#). Make sure your policy covers your needs.
- 15) For more money saving ideas take a look at the [Student Wellbeing Service website](#).