



# THE STUDENT PAGES

## 7 Ways to Cut back Spending at University

Allah will raise those who believe from among you, and those to whom knowledge is given, to degrees of rank.

(Holy Qur'an 58:12)

The figure, when you look at it, is quite something: the NUS says that on average a three-year course costs £24,000. To be sure, this covers tuition fees, books, stationary, plus core living expenses. It's no wonder why students leave university well and truly in the red. Here are some tips to ease the financial burden.

### 1. Take Responsibility

Firstly, and possibly most crucially, take responsibility. This involves drawing up a budget and doing your utmost to stick to it. Exhausting it may sound, but overspending in the present and suffering for it in the future is no wiser, and this approach can help you to balance living now with paying later. So, to begin with, calculate just how much money you have coming in each month and then deduct the bare basics from it. The balance remaining ought to determine your level of spending on luxuries. At this point you may realise that your won't stretch anywhere near as far as you'd like. But, don't worry, here's some quick-and-easy ways to cut your costs.

### 2. Get Organised

Once you've taken responsibility for your finances, the very next step is organising them. A recent report into student finances found the optimum way to do this. Choose the best student account. This may not be the one offering the best freebies. Check the small print to compare the cost of the overdraft - and the charges for exceeding your limit. With your student account opened, arrange for direct

debits to automatically pay those monthly bills - rent and the rest. This set-up will encourage you on the straight and narrow, and give you access to a relatively inexpensive life line should you need it. Next up, those cost cutting tactics.

### 3. Buy Second Hand

You can buy much of your must-have student stuff second hand. When it comes to getting text books, pick up used copies from former students or look out in university for book fairs. Also most books can be bought over the internet through secure sites, where prices can be compared.

### 4. Buy new for less

Fortunately nowadays there are a wide variety of stores that sell items such as clothes, electronics etc. for far less than you could imagine. Also look out for summer and winter sales in large shops to buy in bulk your necessities.

### 5. Minimise regular expenditure

These items include utilities such as, insurance, gas and electric - if homeowner, also your mobile phone bill. These expenditures regularly add up every month, so why not find the best deals on the market and avail the

opportunity. Be on the look out and bargain your way through to minimal costs.

### 6. Minimise Interesting expenditure

When it comes to spending extravagantly, surveys show that UK students spend a total of £1,490 million a year on eating out. This is in fact double what they spend on groceries. The safest option to steer clear of this enormous debt would be to shop in local supermarkets for food and drink. Then cooking should be the skill mastered by all. A few simple recipes can really go a long way.

### 7. Increasing overall Income

For some it may be difficult to juggle studying with a

part-time job; but if you can then it's good to know that almost two-fifths of undergraduates do some form of paid work. To find out who recruits students in your area talk to career counsellors or your student union rep. Another opportunity would be to work during the summer holidays. You can register with job agencies who can find you temporary work at good hourly rates. The money earned here may even be sufficient to pay you through your year at university, depending on how many hours you commit yourself to.

For more information regarding any of the above points, please contact the Student Affairs team who will be more than happy to advise you where possible.

### Latest News Bulletin

#### Graduates offered cash to teach maths & science

Graduates are to be offered bigger government grants to train as science and maths teachers under moves announced recently to fill vacancies in schools.

But, to the dismay of unions, ministers confirmed that trainee teachers will have to pay student top-up fees of up to £3,000 a year from 2006. The announcements came in a package of measures designed to encourage more high-quality graduates to consider a career in the classroom.

Trainee maths and science teachers will continue to receive "golden hellos" worth £5,000, payable once they are established in work, and higher bursaries worth £9,000. The reforms, proposed by the Teacher Training Agency (TTA), also include new golden hellos worth £2,500 each for religious education and music teachers

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