



**LEICESTER  
STUDENTS'  
UNION**

# **BUDGETING ADVICE**

# Quick Tips



## Manage your finances

Putting some thought into how you will pay for essentials like food, housing, tuition fees and other course costs may help you to plan your spending more effectively.



## Use a budgeting diary

This is a great way to keep track of not only how much you are spending, but what you are spending your money on. By keeping track you will be able to identify items that you frequently spend money on but don't necessarily need.



## Take cash out at the beginning of each week

It is so easy to tap and spend money using your card and often it is easy to lose track of how much you are really spending. By setting yourself an allocated amount of money you will be able to physically see how much you are spending, and how much you have left throughout the course of the week.



## Set up your direct debits

Set them for the days you know you are getting money into your account.



## Write a shopping list before you go to the supermarket

This will prevent you from under or over buying. Familiarise yourself with the time slots major supermarkets discount their perishables. Consider shopping at Leicester Market as it is a cheap source of fresh products. Everything is usually discounted heavily near the end of the day, around 4 pm.



## Buy what you need

Only buy what you actually intend to use when buying perishable items. Multi-buys may sound cheap but you may end up not using most of it.



## Invest in Tupperware

Cook in bulk and freeze your food. Make use of the microwaves in the SU for leftovers.



## Walk or cycle when you can

It is healthier and saves money you would spend on buses or taxis.



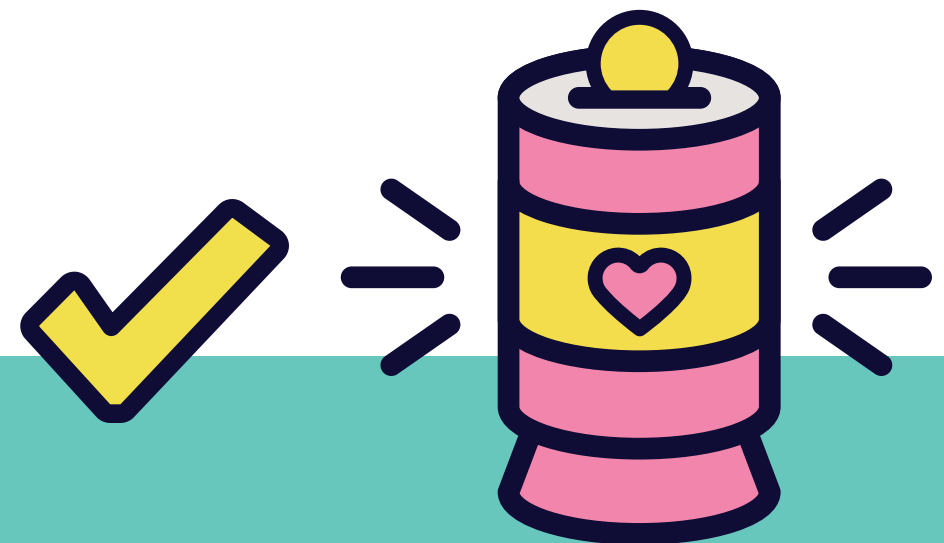
## Make it fun and competitive

Set you and your friends a challenge to spend as little as possible!

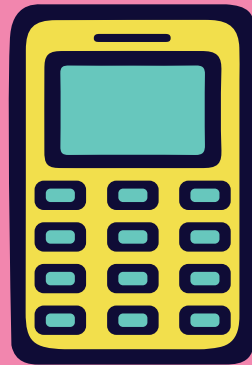
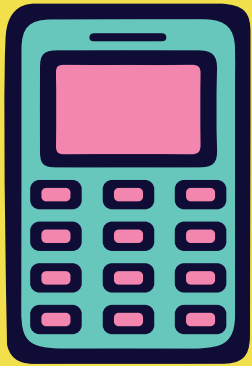


## Consider the environment

Have a think about your spending habits and the impact this could have on the planet. If you are always buying a takeaway coffee, perhaps think about the benefits of making your own coffee and using a re-usable mug.







## Calculating your expenses

Your expenses will vary based on your lifestyle, for example, whether you're in university accommodation in your first year, or have a car with you at university.

We've therefore divided potential expenses into categories, to include all possible outgoings – just include the ones that apply to you.

### University

- Tuition fees
- Accommodation fees
- Course supplies

### Household Bills

- Contents insurance (unless you're on your parents' home insurance)
- Gas/electricity/water
- Broadband
- Mobile phone
- TV licence
- Food shopping

### Travel

- Train/bus
- Petrol
- Car insurance and tax
- Fuel
- Car maintenance
- Breakdown cover

### Little Extras

- Drinking and eating out
- Hobbies
- Clothes
- Tickets (cinemas/clubs etc.)
- Books and magazines
- Gym/fitness
- Haircuts

### Big Extras

- Christmas
- Holidays
- Festivals
- Birthdays
- Large one-off purchases (eg. bike, laptop, car)

### Other





# I'm spending more than I'm earning...

## Consider the following:



### Increasing your income

Depending on your study schedule, taking on part-time work could make a big difference to your budget.



### Speaking to an adviser

Visit the Students' Union Advice Service or the Student Welfare Service, for information, advice or support that can help you manage your money.



### Reducing your expenses

Look at what you're spending money on. Are there any areas that you could cut down on? Swapping branded products for supermarket-own brands, or sharing meal costs could save you money.



### Shop smart with students discounts



### Entertainment and socialising

Fresher's week, sports club socials, coffees, lunches... the cost of socialising can quickly add up. But, being sociable doesn't have to be expensive, consider taking part in:

- Free events at your union
- Two-for-one cinema nights
- Game nights in with housemates



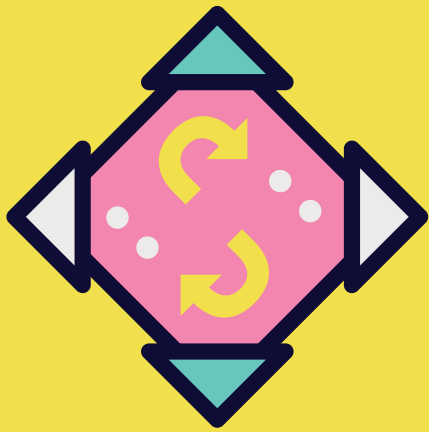
### Course materials

Study books, photocopying, printing - while these costs can seem small, they soon add up over time.

Try to keep these expenses to a minimum by:

- Using your library for books - be sure to avoid late fees!
- Printing in black and white and on both sides to reduce printing costs.
- Buying second hand books - look for union fairs with students selling their old textbooks.





## Available Support



### Campus:

-  **Advice Service**  
Free, confidential academic, budgeting, housing and signposting advice and guidance.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday, 10:00am to 4:00pm  
**Phone:** 0116 223 1132  
**Email:** [advice@le.ac.uk](mailto:advice@le.ac.uk)  
**Website:** [www.leicesterunion.com/advice](http://www.leicesterunion.com/advice)  
**Location:** First Floor of the Students' Union, Percy Gee Building
  
-  **Student Welfare Service**  
Provide advice on financial issues, childcare and benefits.  
**Opening Hours:** Monday to Friday, 09:00am to 05:00pm.  
**Phone:** 0116 252 2448 **Email:** [studentservices@le.ac.uk](mailto:studentservices@le.ac.uk)  
**Website:** [www2.le.ac.uk/offices/welfare](http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/welfare)  
**Location:** Student Services Centre, Charles Wilson Building

### Community & National:

-  **Money Advice Service**  
**Phone:** 0800 138 7777  
**Email:** [enquiries@moneyadviceservice.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@moneyadviceservice.org.uk).  
**Website:** [www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en](http://www.moneyadviceservice.org.uk/en)
  
-  **Money Matters Leicester**  
**Phone:** 0792 608 6238  
**Website:** [www.moneymattersleicester.org/students.html](http://www.moneymattersleicester.org/students.html)
  
-  **Moneywise Plus**  
**Phone:** 0300 003 7004  
**Referral form:** [www.moneywiseplus.co.uk/refer-to-us/](http://www.moneywiseplus.co.uk/refer-to-us/)  
**Website:** [www.moneywiseplus.co.uk/](http://www.moneywiseplus.co.uk/)
  
-  **Citizens Advice**  
An independent charity helping people in the local area by providing free, independent, confidential and impartial advice and offering practical, up-to-date information and advice on a wide range of topics, including debt, benefits etc.  
**Phone:** 0300 330 1025  
**Website:** [www.leicscab.org.uk](http://www.leicscab.org.uk)

### Online Resources:

-  **University of Leicester Living Costs and Budgeting**  
[www.le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/fees-funding/living-costs](http://www.le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/fees-funding/living-costs)
  
-  **Money Saving Expert—Students**  
[www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/](http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/)





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## **Get in touch!**



[leicesterunion.com/advice](https://leicesterunion.com/advice)



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