

Living Expenses During Your First Year of University/College

The information below is designed as a guide to help you budget your living expenses at university / college during your first year. You will be able to calculate your own personal budget once you know your outgoings.

Expenditure	Per month	Per year	Notes
Rent (if you are living in university accommodation, this is paid in one instalment each term)	£360 - £490	£4,512 - £6,864	Average rent for a standard room on a 42-week tenancy. Private rented accommodation tenancy agreements are usually 11 months.
Bills (gas, electric, water, sewerage and internet)	£0 (university accommodation) £40 (non-university accommodation)	£0 (university accommodation) £420 (non-university accommodation)	All of these bills are included in the cost of your rent if you are living in halls of residence/Unilet accommodation. Otherwise, expect to pay around £35 per month.
Local bus travel	£20 (non-university accommodation)	£205 (non-university accommodation)	It costs £205 for unlimited travel on specified BU and more bus routes for 90 days.
Food, toiletries and household items	£245	£2,200	These figures are based on the National Union of Students cost of living survey
Laundry costs	£13 - £26	£156 - £312	Launderette facilities in halls of residence are coin/card operated. Unilet houses are fitted with washing machines, so this is included in the rent.
Insurance for personal possessions		£70	We recommend you insure your personal possessions. This can also be paid monthly by direct debit.
TV licence		£150.50	You can also pay for your TV licence in weekly, monthly or quarterly instalments. Check whether you need one at the TV Licensing website
Course materials	£18 - £53	£210 - £630	For example, core textbooks, photocopying, stationery and other consumables.

These figures are based on a 12-month period and have been gathered from a range of sources.

You may find one of the following online calculators can help you work out your budget:

- [UK students calculator](#)
- [International students calculator](#)
- [gov.uk calculator](#)

Start-up costs

Don't forget that there are certain things you'll need to buy when you start university/college, as these won't be provided by your accommodation. They include:

- Bedding (sheets, pillows, duvets)
- Towels and tea towels
- Cups, bowls and plates
- Cutlery
- Cooking utensils and saucepans.

You may just want to bring the bare minimum of kitchen equipment, cutlery and crockery when you start university, as you and your housemates may decide to buy some of the essentials together and split the cost.

Accommodation costs

In addition to the living costs for year 1 noted above, you will also need funds to secure your accommodation for the following year. This will include a holding fee, deposit and first month's rent which can average £800-£1,000. Some students will wait until after Christmas to secure their accommodation as they will have more funds available.

Many letting agents also require you to have a guarantor. If your family have a low income, do not own their own home or you're an EU or international students you may find it difficult to get a guarantor. There are companies that can act as your guarantor for a flat rate fee of approximately £300, or a fee of approximately 3.5% of the total rent. If the letting agent doesn't accept these companies as a guarantor then the other options include paying 6 months or the full contractual rent upfront.