

# LIVING COSTS

When budgeting for your life in the UK you need to remember to calculate your everyday living expenses including your food, accommodation (rent and other bills), books and equipment, and clothes. Remember to leave yourself money for leisure pursuits and socialising.

These costs can vary depending on where you stay in the UK, London tends to be the most expensive UK city to live in.



## Leisure and socialising

The cost you spend on your leisure time will vary on the types of activities you like to do and how often you do them. A good money saving tip is to take advantage of the entertainment arranged by student societies. Most on-campus activities will cost very little and you can enjoy them with your friends and fellow students. These events are also ideal opportunities to meet new friends and enjoy new experiences.

Some average costs to consider are;

Restaurant meal	£12 per head on average (including one drink)
Beer	£1.50 - £2 for a pint
Concert ticket	Range from £10 to £50
Cinema	Around £6
Theatre (local)	£5.00 - £8.00
Nightclub (local)	£2.00 - £5.00

## Food

You will probably find that you spend approximately £30 per week on food. The majority of grocery shops are open from 0900 - 1730 (supermarkets from 0800 - 2100) although some may open until later on certain days, and some may stay open for 24 hours.



The average costs of some everyday groceries are;

Milk	55p - 70p/litre	Sugar	80p/kilo
Butter	70-90p/250g	Potatoes	40p - £1.75/kilo
Shampoo	from 99p/300g	Rice	£1.20-£1.40/500g
Bread	50p - 90p/loaf	Eggs	90p/half-dozen (6 eggs)
Chicken	£2.99/small	Coffee (instant)	£1.90/100g

## **Clothing**

The UK is a very multi cultural country and people often choose to wear clothes that are traditional to their particular culture.

In general, students on campus tend to dress very casually. It is common for students to wear jeans, t-shirts and jumpers. It would be advisable to purchase some new clothing on your arrival so you can judge the temperature.



To keep warm in winter it is advisable to have the following items: a hat; scarf; pair of gloves; warm socks; a warm, waterproof coat; strong, waterproof shoes; several thinner t-shirts/ jumpers (a few thinner layers will keep you warmer than one thick item of clothing).

The cost of clothes can vary on where you purchase them but at the majority of stores the prices below are a good indication of what you can expect to pay;

T-shirt	£10 to £20
Shirt / blouse	£10 to £25
Trousers	£20 or more
Winter coat	£75 or more
Mens' shoes	£30 - £50
Ladies' shoes	£30 or £50

## **Household Bills**

If you rent private accommodation then you must remember that you are responsible for paying the council tax on the property and the utility bills. So you must include these costs when compiling your budget.

## **Equipment**

The cost of textbooks can vary depending on what course you are taking, on average the price varies from about £6 to £50plus, although all text books are cheaper if bought second hand.