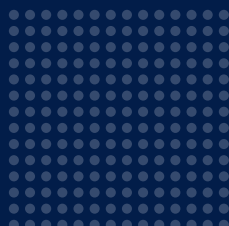
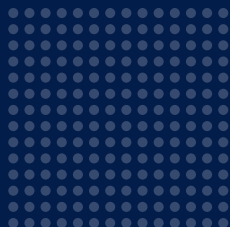




BIRMINGHAM CITY
University



BUDGET PLANNER





HELLO

We know you may be feeling worried about your finances and wondering how you will pay your tuition fees, living expenses and all the costs associated with going to university. You may be put off by terms like 'loan' and the associated 'debt' that goes with being a student.

Our handy budget planner is designed to give you a tool to support and guide you through planning and managing your finances. Be that money from Student Finance or a part time job, or outgoings on direct debits and weekend splurges when you're out and about.

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Talk of student debt and loans goes hand-in-hand with becoming a uni student. However, it isn't all bad. Here's a few financial positives to being a student to look out for.



DID YOU KNOW?

You're 42% more likely to achieve your goals and dreams if you write them down on a regular basis!

- Dr. Gail Matthews
Psychology Professor
Dominican University in California

STUDY INCENTIVES

Nearly all universities offer an array of 'scholarships' and 'incentives'. These are schemes that give you additional financial support for your studies. However unlike student finance these are payments that you don't have to repay!

If you apply to BCU and secure results in the qualifications you are studying that either match or better our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a £1,000 scholarship for 2021 entry, made up of £850 cash and £150 credit to spend in our online shop. We give all new home and EU undergraduates £150 worth of credit to spend on a range of materials including books, stationery and digital resources.

For full terms and conditions and to find out more, visit www.bcu.ac.uk/meetorbeat and www.bcu.ac.uk/15-credit.

A STUDENT BANK ACCOUNT AND ALL THE PERKS THAT COME WITH IT

Before you start university it's recommended that you open a student bank account. These bank accounts are made especially for those in higher education. They operate similarly to a current account and come with many great benefits. These usually include 0% interest on overdrafts, freebies such as railcards and free access to Amazon Prime, and other discounts that could help you get hold of needed textbooks or just have a cheap meal out.

There are many options to choose from, and at first it may be a daunting task. Thankfully there are useful websites such as Money Saving Expert that breakdown the best student bank accounts on the market.

STUDENT DISCOUNT

As a uni student you'll be opening yourself up to a whole host of student discounts. Using discount cards such as **Totum** and websites like **UniDays** and **Studentbeans**, endless money-off opportunities await you. Everything from a new laptop or the latest games console, all the way down to a free burger - you can find deals on anything and everything.

Before making a purchase check to see if a student discount is on offer. Sign up to mailing lists and ask at store counters!

It's important to be responsible, spend wisely and make (and keep to) a budget when beginning university life. But it isn't all stress and worry when it comes to the pounds and pennies.

#1

WRITE DOWN YOUR FINANCIAL GOALS

Learn how to budget now so that you can manage your money better in the future.

SHOP SMART

Who doesn't like a good bargain?

Get a Totum discount card from NUS or Unidays account - they are the perfect way to unlock student discounts.

Sign up using your uni email and start saving!



MY FINANCIAL GOALS

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	

#2

FOLLOW YOUR PROGRESS TOWARDS YOUR SAVINGS GOALS

A goal without a plan is just a wish!

SAVE ON TRAVEL

Take advantage of student discounts on travel. You can get a 16-25 railcard to save a third on rail fares.

Visit 16-25railcard.co.uk to find out more.



SAVINGS TRACKER

SAVING FOR:

AMOUNT NEEDED: DUE DATE:

DATE	DEPOSIT	TOTAL SAVED

SAVING FOR:

AMOUNT NEEDED: DUE DATE:

DATE	DEPOSIT	TOTAL SAVED

SAVING FOR:

AMOUNT NEEDED: DUE DATE:

DATE	DEPOSIT	TOTAL SAVED

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MONEY MANTRAS

Not sure whether to fork out for something at uni?
Use Martin Lewis' money mantras.

SKINT:

- Ask yourself: do I need it?
- Can I afford it?
- Is it cheaper elsewhere?

NOT SKINT:

- Ask yourself: will I use it?
- Is it worth it?
- Is it cheaper elsewhere?

#3

CREATE A BUDGET BEFORE YOU SPEND

A budget is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went.



MONTH: OPENING BALANCE:

MOST IMPORTANT GOALS THIS MONTH	
1.	2.
3.	4.

INCOME	
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
TOTAL	£

SAVINGS	
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
TOTAL	£

MONTH: OPENING BALANCE:

MOST IMPORTANT GOALS THIS MONTH	
1.	2.
3.	4.

INCOME	
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
TOTAL	£

SAVINGS	
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
	£
TOTAL	£

MONTHLY BUDGET			
CATEGORY / EXPENSE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TOTAL			

MONTHLY BUDGET			
CATEGORY / EXPENSE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TOTAL			

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CATEGORY / EXPENSE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TOTAL			

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TOTAL			

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TOTAL	£

SAVINGS	
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	£
	£
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	£
TOTAL	£

MONTHLY BUDGET			
CATEGORY / EXPENSE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TOTAL			

MONTHLY BUDGET			
CATEGORY / EXPENSE	BUDGETED	ACTUAL	DIFFERENCE
TOTAL			

#5

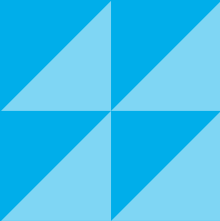
PLAN AND FOLLOW YOUR REGULAR MONTHLY BILLS

When you are a student, there are some things you don't have to pay for. For example, student houses do not need to pay Council Tax.

BILLS

Beware of little expenses:
a small leak will sink
a great ship!

- Benjamin Franklin



REGULAR BILL TRACKER

BILL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE

BILL	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC

#6

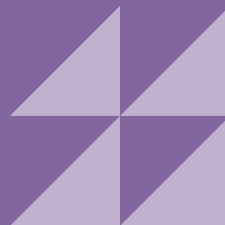
TRACK YOUR PROGRESS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Protect your identity: It is really important you key an eye on your sensitive information and take precautions to prevent fraud.

PART-TIME WORK

Think about getting a part-time job to supplement your income.

A part-time job is a great way to add something to your CV whilst still studying, as well as building your confidence, giving you new skills and the opportunity to meet people.



SUMMARY OF THE YEAR

MONTH	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
INCOME						
EXPENSES						
BALANCE						
SAVINGS						

MONTH	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
INCOME						
EXPENSES						
BALANCE						
SAVINGS						

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Money Saving Expert

Martin Lewis Money Saving Expert is a great resource to find tips on - you guessed it - saving money! They feature discounts and student offers, so it's good to check the latest deals here before you make any bigger purchases.

➤ www.moneysavingexpert.com

📱 @moneysavingexp

Which Money Saving Tips

➤ www.which.co.uk/money/money-saving-tips

Young Money

➤ www.youngmoneyblog.co.uk/blog

UCAS Budget Calculator

➤ www.ucas.com/budget-calculator

Save the Student

➤ www.savethestudent.org/money/15-money-lessons

📱 @moneywithmatt

Birmingham City University Student Finance

➤ www.bcu.ac.uk/student-info/finance



NOTES

A series of horizontal dotted lines for taking notes.

*MAKE PROGRESS
NOT EXCUSES*

A little progress each day
adds up to big results!

CONTACT US


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