

Bills and Budgeting Tips

Budget for all your spending including:

- Housing costs
- Food/groceries/takeaways/meals out
- Travel
- Books and other study costs
- Socialising and interests
- Unexpected events or emergencies

Please refer to the sample budget table below



Things to watch out for

- Upfront costs, a security deposit of up to five weeks' rent at the start of your tenancy + one month's rent
- Sometimes landlords might include bills in your rent. It might be simpler but doesn't mean it'll be cheaper!
- Budgets change from month to month, you could be spending more on books at the start of the academic year and your heating bill may be higher in the winter
- If you overspend, don't give up! Find out where your spending is high and see if additional savings can be made elsewhere

Sample Housing budget:

(The sample is based on **three** people sharing a property / flat)

Utilities	Annual cost	Per person per Month (rounded up)
Rent	£30,600.00	£850.00
Water	£780.00	£22.00
Electricity	£730.00	£21.00
Gas	£830.00	£23.00
Broadband	£360.00	£10.00
TV Licence	£179.40	£5.00
Contents Insurance	£130.00	£4.00
Total	£33,609.40	£930.00

The above figures are based on data from the following sources:

Thameswater.co.uk

gov.uk

moneysavingexpert.com

tvlicensing.co.uk

comparethemarket.com

themoneycharity.org.uk

Other costs to factor in:

Food: save money by preparing meals from scratch and buying non-branded products in supermarkets

Cooking joint meals is a good way save money

Transport: cut down travel costs by using a student oyster card / Rent a Bike

Books and stationery: second-hand books are cheaper. Fresher's Fairs and other events offer a plentiful supply of free stationery!

Mobile phone: good deals can be found on price comparison sites like:

moneysavingexpert.com

billmonitor.com

Other essentials: for example, toiletries, clothing, laundry costs

Going out: find out about free events and activities at:

Timeout.com

Londonist.com

Londonforfree.net