

Money tips



1. Stop paying too much tax

Three quarters of students are in paid employment and need to know about tax. Check if you are paying the right amount of tax or might be eligible for a tax refund, www.studenttaxadvice.org.uk has all the information you need.

2. Don't use store cards and credit cards

Store cards usually charge between 25% and 30% interest, they are often missold by untrained shop staff and are targeted specifically at young people. Credit cards are another way to easily get into debt, don't use them to spend money you don't have.

3. Maximise your income

Income maximisation means getting as much money as you can. Start off with student loans, they are the most economical way to borrow money and from September 2009 will be 0% interest. Depending on circumstances you might be eligible for benefits or the Access to Learning Fund (ALF) which is a hardship fund administered by University.

4. Shop around and haggle!

Try to make a habit out of using price comparison sites and the internet to compare costs. Sites like www.moneysupermarket.com and www.pricerunner.co.uk let you compare before you buy. If an item is slightly damaged ask for extra discount at the till, if they won't budge ask yourself do you really need it?

5. Save energy and cut bills

Use energy saving light bulbs and turn off electrical items when not in use. Even appliances on standby use energy.



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6. Invest in travel cards

16-25 rail cards allow users 1/3 off most rail fares, if you're over 25 and still in full-time education you can also apply. If you are a regular bus user First Student tickets are available each semester and offer unlimited travel on all local services, see www.firstgroup.com for details. Another way of saving money is to make sure you buy tickets in advance and not on the day.

7. Get an NUS Extra card and ask for discounts

For just a £10 annual fee you can discounts on loads of stuff including food, fashions and electrical items, purchase your card online from www.nus.org.uk. Even if shops don't advertise an NUS discount it's always worth asking. Other ways of receiving discounts are to get haircuts as a model, sometimes they're even free!

8. Get money for old rope

Try selling your old clothes, books, DVDs and CDs on auction sites like eBay. Old mobile phone handsets can also be sold to raise money, see www.moneysaving.com/phones for more information.

9. Do you want it, do you really need it?

Try to hold back from impulse buys. If you see something out shopping ask the shop assistant to put it by for you. That way you can take some time to ask yourself do I really need it? Can I really afford it?

10. Stop burying your head in the sand

If you're struggling to pay bills and debts let the companies know. They're often more interested in getting less money over a longer period than none at all. Ask the SAS for help negotiating with the people you owe.



The SAS does not endorse any specific company, website or organisation for bills or utilities.

Get in touch



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