

MONEY SAVING TIPS

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London can be an expensive city for students, but don't worry. These tips will stop you from overspending, but won't prevent you from having fun in the vibrant UK capital.

Accommodation

- Instead of staying in the centre, **choose somewhere to live a little further out**. Although you might have to spend more on travel, you should still save a fair amount of money this way. For example, instead of staying in the Greenwich area which is quite posh, move down a few stops on the DLR for a slightly cheaper area.
- **Sharing a house is an absolute godsend** as costs are divided and bills are equally shared.

Budgeting

- **Make sure you know when you will receive income** (e.g. student loan, part-time job wages) and how much so you don't overspend before you actually have the money.
- **Estimating your monthly outgoings is important** so you can see where your money is going. This will also help you work out how much money you have left to save, or spend on non-essential fun stuff such as nights out, holidays etc.
- You might want to consider the [50/20/30 rule](#), where you spend 30% of your budget on enjoying London while also budgeting for the essentials and saving for the future.
- **Apps such as [Monzo](#) and [Starling Bank](#) can help you track spending by category** (e.g. food, travel...) and will send you notifications if you go over budget.

Discounts

- **Apps like [UNiDAYS](#) and [Student Beans](#) provide discounts** for many restaurants, bars and shops.
- It might also be worth applying for a [TOTUM \(NUS\) Extra Card](#). For a small fee, you get access to a range of discounts from similar high street retailers.

Entertainment

- One of the best things about London is that there are **countless free things to do**, from a simple stroll in Holland Park to a full-blown party at the annual Notting Hill Carnival. Many of the well-known tourist attractions, such as the Changing of the

Guard, are also free, as are many popular museums and galleries such as The [National History Museum](#) and the [Tate Modern](#).

- **There are many free amusements in Greenwich.** [Up the Creek Comedy Club](#) has a stand-up show which is free for students, and the [Picturehouse Cinema](#) runs a 'Slackers' Club' which includes free student film screenings.
- **Local websites** such as the [Londonist](#) are great resources for keeping up-to-date with the latest free events.
- **Keep an eye on blogs** such as [londonontheinside.com](#) and [skintlondon.com](#) to find out about the latest giveaways and deals at London restaurants and bars. It is also worth subscribing to newsletters of your regular haunts, so that you find out about special offers.
- **You can't live in London without at least one trip to the theatre.** You can find up to 60% off tickets online, or visit the [TKTS booth](#) on the day if you don't mind what to watch. [Shakespeare's Globe](#), an open-air playhouse where Shakespeare's plays are performed, also offers standing tickets for as little as £5.

Food

- **Pre-plan what to buy and where to buy from.** Instead of Waitrose, try a cheaper alternative that is hopefully within walking distance.
- Instead of buying lunch in the canteen, **try preparing a packed lunch** from leftovers of last night's dinner, or wake up 5 minutes earlier to prepare a sandwich.
- **Always compare prices** between products because that can make a massive difference to the overall bill.
- **Have a budget for food shops** and try not to go over it so you can spend more on activities such as nights out and gigs.
- Some students opt to **go vegetarian or vegan** while studying in London to save money they would otherwise spend on meat and/or animal products.

Travel

- **Try walking or cycling** rather than getting the bus/tube. London isn't as big as many people think so sometimes there is no need to use public transport. You can also get some exercise while saving money.
- **Get an 18+ Student Oyster photocard** which gives you 30% off underground (or tube), bus and tram pass season tickets.
- **Download Citymapper** – a free app allowing you to compare different routes to see which are cheapest. Even if it takes you a little longer to reach your destination, you could save a few pounds.
- **Bus/cycle journeys only cost £1.50 per ride**, no matter how far the distance.