

MAKE YOUR MONEY GO FURTHER

Suggestions and advice to help your
student finance stretch further

For advice and further information contact

Money Advice Team

firstpoint@worc.ac.uk

01905 542551

www.worcester.ac.uk/moneyadvice

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- Save as much money as you can before starting university, for example by taking a summer job.
- Take a part-time job whilst at University, at least in your first and second year. However, try to get the balance between work and study right. The University's Careers Service can help you with your job search: <https://www2.worc.ac.uk/careers>
- Prepare a Budget Sheet, and list essential expenditure on a Spending Log – available from **firstpoint** or online at: <https://www2.worc.ac.uk/moneyadvice/resources.htm>
- Plan for extra expenses like birthdays & Christmas.
- Keep track of your spending patterns, little things like coffee, sandwiches, fast food, downloads and so on can soon add up.
- Start saving early for Christmas (limit your spending at Christmas, so you don't start the New Year in debt).
- NUS TOTUM student cards cost £14.99 a year and enable you to receive at least 10% discount in a significant number of shops (e.g. Co-op, Superdrug, Odeon and many clothes and music stores) and businesses.
- Think about which books you need to buy. Many will be available in the library, or second-hand from other students. If you decide to buy, check your REACH account for the best online prices.
- Get household and other goods for free by enrolling with your local Freecycle scheme www.freecycle.org
- Save money & the environment by using your local repair café to mend your items instead of replacing them. Find your nearest café at: <https://repaircafe.org/en/>
- Get 6 months free trial with Amazon Prime Student (£3.99/month when trial ends or cancel anytime).
- Don't expect to be able to afford as many luxuries as you did before you became a student e.g. Sky TV, foreign holidays, gym membership etc.
- Avoid library fines. Charges for overdue books are 15p a day and are £3 a day for those on short loan and for media equipment. If you do get into difficulties with fines, speak to a member of the library staff as soon as you can.
- **firstpoint** in the Peirson Building allows free phone calls (with permission) to Student Finance England and NHS Grants.
- Free software: Office 365 is available to current students through the student portal. This allows access to online storage (One Drive) and Microsoft office online applications. Current students also have the option to download Microsoft office onto their Windows or Apple computer.
- Art & Design students can save money on materials by visiting the Worcestershire Resource Exchange. www.wre.uk.com
- Make sure your possessions are insured either on your own or your parents' policy. Endsleigh Insurance is recognised by NUS.
- Apply for help from educational charities and trust funds. More details at: <https://www2.worc.ac.uk/moneyadvice/trustfunds.htm>
- You may be eligible for some help from the University's Access to Learning Fund – for more information see: <https://www2.worc.ac.uk/moneyadvice/accesstolearningfund.htm>
- Apply for help with healthcare costs like prescriptions by completing a HC1 form, available from the Students' Union or **firstpoint** in the Peirson Building.
- Save for the deposit and fees you'll need to secure a place in a private house share when you leave Halls in year 2.
- Read the small print in mobile phone and internet contracts. Some can be expensive once the free offers have finished and costly to end the contract before the due date.
- Make sure you use the most economical household fuel provider where relevant.
- Sell unwanted cds, DVDs and games on sites such as CEX, Music Magpie, Amazon and Ziffit.
- Sell unwanted clothes through local agencies (such as Exchange & Smart in Worcester).
- Sell unwanted items on eBay / Facebook / Gumtree / Amazon Market etc.
- Pay cash - If you don't take your bank card you will not be tempted to over-spend.
- Save money by walking, cycling or catching a bus (but with a group if late at night).
- Join the University's Cycle Loan Scheme for as little as £45 an academic year, see <https://tinyurl.com/y2tar74a>
- Use 16-25 Railcards (also available to over 25s if they are in full-time education) which gives you 1/3 off rail travel across Britain for just £30 a year.
- Get cheaper rail and bus tickets by booking in advance from online booking companies like Trainline.
- If travelling on the local First buses, tickets are cheaper if bought in advance.
- Use the Campus Bike Shop (open on the St Johns campus from 12 - 2 every Tuesday & Wednesday during term time). The shop sells recycled & new bikes and accessories. They also service and repair any bike.
- If you're aged 16-26 or a full-time student, National Express' Young Persons Coachcard gives you 1/3 off Standard and Fully Flexible fares and 15% off travel to events and festivals for just £12.50 a year.
- Avoid expensive branded products - try the supermarket own brands.
- Get the best deal at supermarkets by using website: www.mysupermarket.co.uk to compare prices and offers before you shop.
- Learn to cook – it will save you money & is healthier! Also cook in bulk & freeze batches for later.
- Use cashback sites when shopping online www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/cashback-websites/
- Try to avoid buying take-away food which is a lot more expensive than cooking your own.
- Avoid using cash-point machines that charge for use.
- If you are a home owner or you rent and have the permission of your landlord, you may want to consider increasing your income by renting out a room in your home tax free. For more information visit: www.gov.uk/rent-room-in-your-home
- Don't Ignore Debts - if you are experiencing problems, don't ignore it; get in touch with the creditor. You may be able to negotiate smaller payments.
- Avoid credit cards and store cards – interest soon adds up and can be very expensive & unmanageable on a student income.
- Don't use expensive debt management services; use a FREE service such as Citizens Advice, StepChange or National Debtline.
- Do not use PayDay loans because of the notoriously high rates of interest charged.
- Avoid online gambling sites. Small bets soon add up. Find support for gambling problems at: www.gamcare.org.uk
- Look out for student discounts - students can often get discounts by simply showing your student photo ID card.