

We asked our alumnae for their top money management tips for university...



Make a list before doing your food shop. It will stop you from buying more food than you'll be able to use but also ensure you have enough for a week of meals so you won't have to keep going back to the shops and spending more!

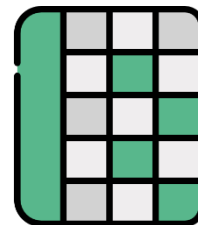
Get a Monzo or some other kind of prepaid card. Work out your total "to spend" and take off what you need to spend. With what's left, divide by the number of weeks you need the money to cover and work out a weekly budget.

Only load your Monzo each week with your weekly budget and that's all you're allowed to spend. If you have some left at the end of the week, roll it over.



Divide your student loan for the term into the number of weeks so you have a more manageable weekly budget you can keep on top of rather than thinking you have a large sum to spend.

Keep a spreadsheet with all the money coming in and out. Create categories such as food, bills etc. so you know exactly what you're spending money on. If you want to save money avoid buying lots of drinks/ unnecessary things when out - may only be £3 then but it eventually all adds up!



There will be a fancy dress party at some point! Buy or make something now so you are prepared, and not ordering something expensive off Amazon last minute.

My degree was sponsored. It meant I had a bit more income and a guarantee of a vacation job.

Think about getting a part-time job. This could help with the bills but also provide valuable work experience.

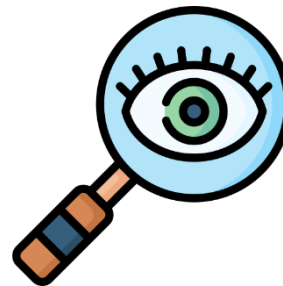


If coffee is your thing, invest in a good coffee machine and a reusable takeaway cup. Coffee shop coffee soon adds up if you're getting one on the way to lectures too often.

Try to avoid Uber eats as it can get expensive and use public transport if you can.



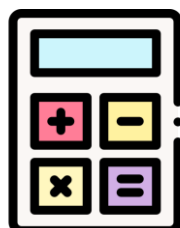
Don't be afraid of your money! Even if it's not in a good place hiding from the truth won't make it better. Keeping an eye on what you're spending is the first step to managing it better.



Set aside a contingency fund for an unexpected train ticket, bill, textbook or night out! And remember to plan for the holidays too, especially holiday rent over the summer.



Set up a second bank account for your weekly budget to go into. Use the money in your second account for your food, socialising and any other things you may want to buy.



In a nutshell... create a budget and stick to it. However, do allow yourself some treats!