

Student Finance and Budgeting

Lucy, Higher Education Advisor

Agenda for today

- What is student finance?
- How much could you receive?
- How do repayments work?
- Other non-repayable financial support you may be able to access
- Researching scholarships, grants and bursaries
- Making the most of your money whilst at university

Who are UEA?





26th in the UK - The Complete Uni Guide 2026

250+ clubs and societies, something for everyone



200+ study abroad partners

3500+ international students from over 100 countries



96.3% employability

Top 5 in the UK for Creative Writing, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy, Paramedic Science (2026)



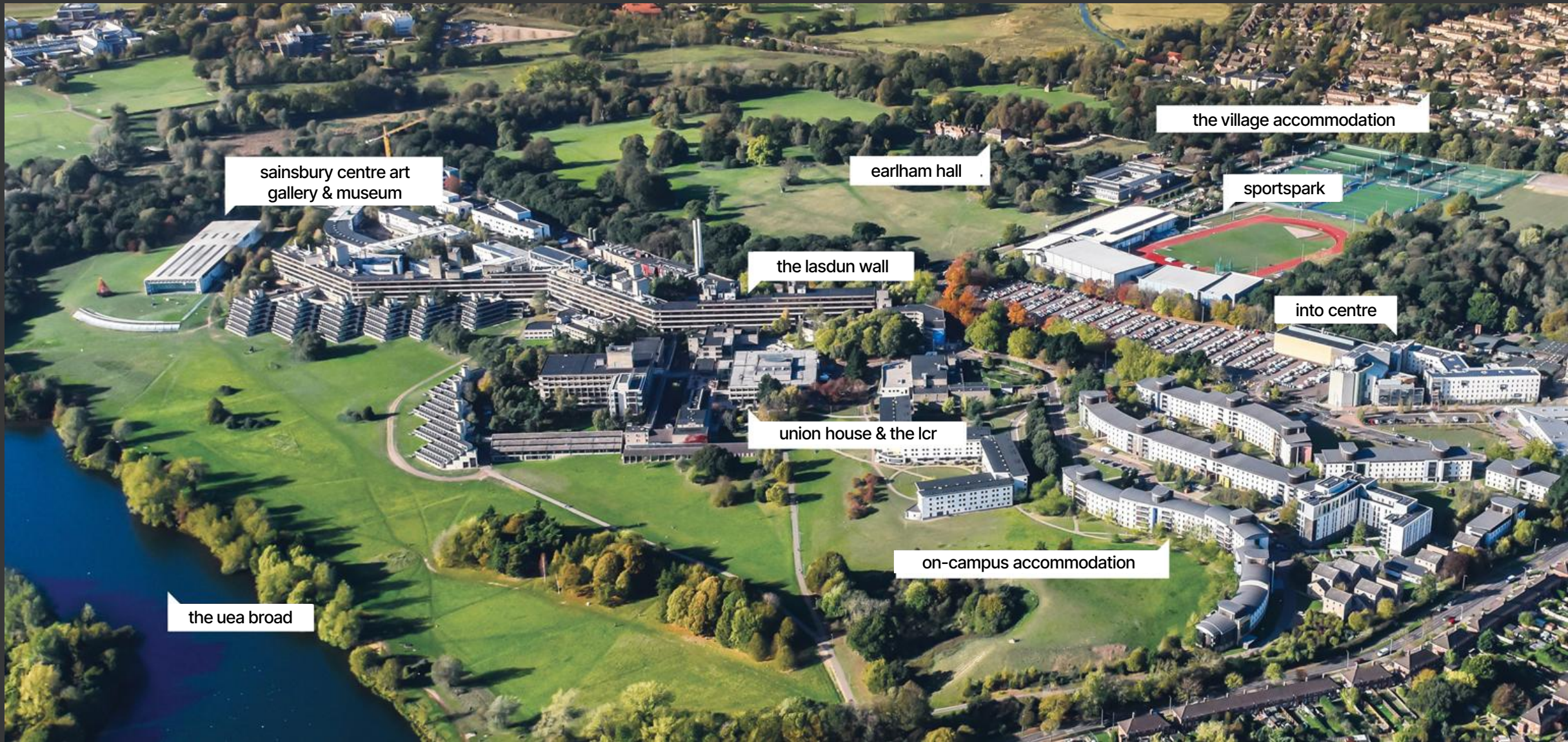
1 hr 45 mins from London by train

Norwich: One of the best places to live in the UK – Sunday Times 2025



Guaranteed accommodation for firm choice

Our campus



sainsbury centre art gallery & museum

the uea broad

the lasdun wall

union house & the lcr

on-campus accommodation

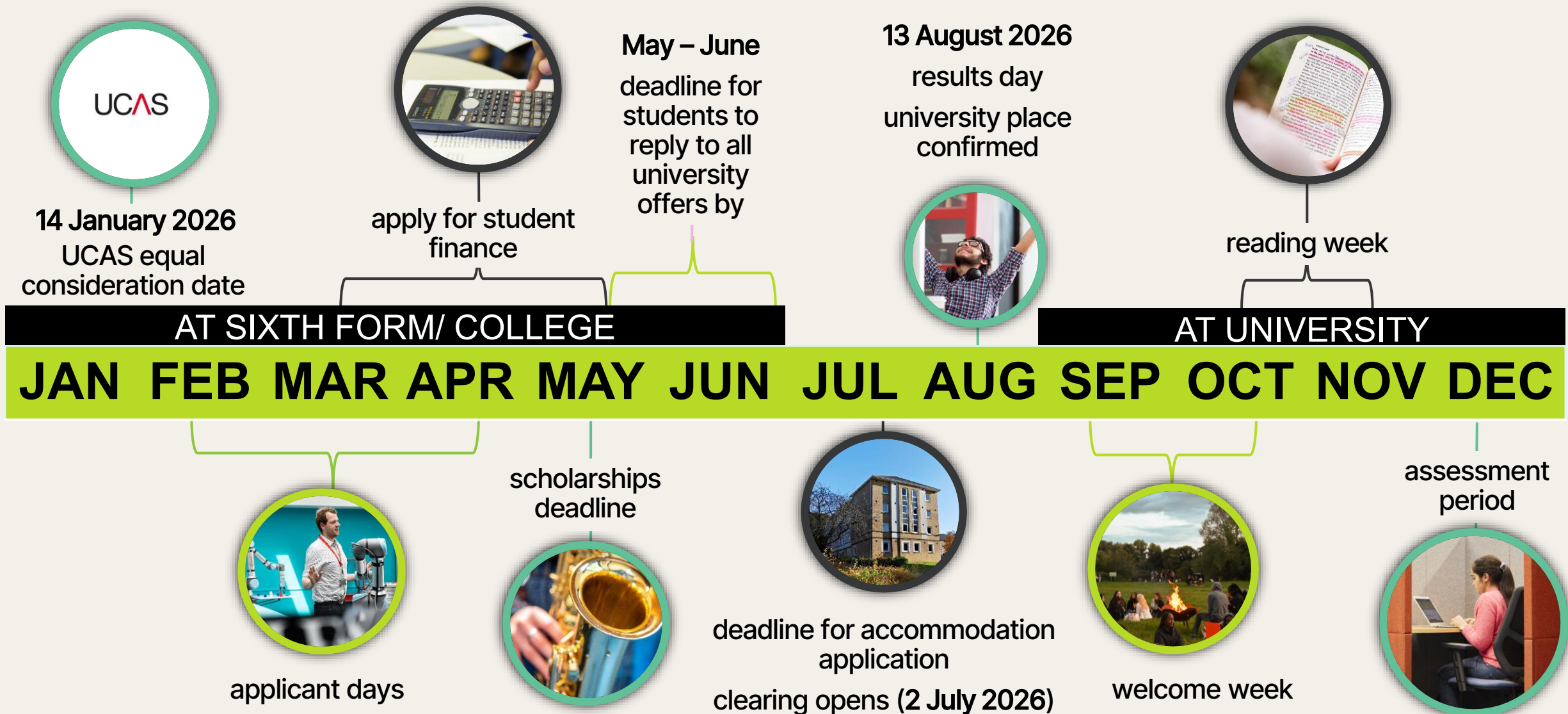
earlham hall

the village accommodation

sports park

into centre

Next steps timeline 2026



What is student finance?

Myth or Reality?



If my household doesn't have a big income, I won't be able to afford university.

Myth

If I apply for a university outside of England, I won't have to pay tuition fees.

Myth

I will only have to pay repayments of my loan if I am earning over £25,000 pa.

Reality

Student loan debt will affect my credit score and stop me from being able to get a mortgage.

Myth

You have to start paying your loan back as soon as you graduate and there are really high interest rates on what you have borrowed.

Myth

What is student finance?



- SFE (Student Finance England) is a service provided by the SLC (Student Loans Company).
- SFE deal with the allocation of loans and your application.
- SLC deal with the repayments when you graduate.

What is student finance?



- The most common way for students to cover university costs is by taking out a student finance loan, which can cover tuition fees and some living costs.
- You'll need to apply for these loans every year that you study, and you can use these loans for the duration of your course.
- These loans are paid in instalments, and so you will need to make sure you make it last!

Who is eligible for student finance?



Whether you qualify for student finance depends on:

- your university or college
- your course
- if you've studied a higher education course before
- your age
- your nationality or residency status

www.gov.uk/student-finance/who-qualifies

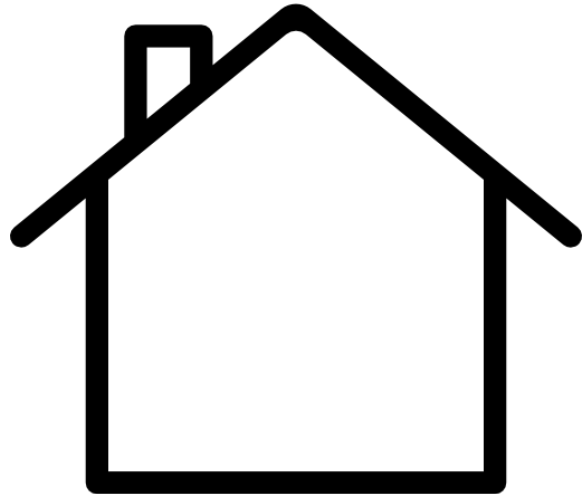
Tuition fee loan

£9,790 per year



- Tuition fee loans are the loans to pay for the tuition of the course.
- The maximum amount a university can charge per year for a UK UG course for 2026 entry is £9790 – a criteria needs to be met to charge this amount.
- Anyone who eligible for student finance is eligible for the full tuition fee loan.
- The money is transferred from the government to university – students will not receive this in their bank accounts.

Maintenance loan



- Maintenance loans are to cover student living costs.
- This money is transferred to the student's account 3 times a year at the beginning of the new term.
- Maintenance is calculated by looking at where the student is living whilst studying and then household income.
- This will be different for each student.

95% of UK students, who are eligible, take out tuition and maintenance loans (SLC, 2024)

How much could you receive?

Maintenance loans – 2026 entry

full time students	maximum loan	everyone entitled to this
living at home	£9,118	£4,013
living away from home, studying outside of London	£10,830	£5,048
living away from home, studying in London	£14,135	£7,039

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

Repayments

Repayments

- Repayments are currently set at 9% on earnings over £25k a year.
- So, you will only repay when your income is over £480 a week, £2,083 a month or £25,000 a year.



Repayments based on salary

salary (pa)	£30,000	£35,000	£40,000
approx. take home per month after tax	£2,064	£2,355	£2,647
approx. student loan payment per month	£38	£75	£112

Repayments on £30,000 salary

Payment Method: BACS		Tax Code: 1257L NI Number: UL134343445	
<u>Payments</u>			
Basic Salary	£2500.00	Tax	£266.74
		N.I.	£116.20
		Pension 6%	£118.80
		Student Loan	£37.50
Total Payments	£2500.00	Total Deductions	£539.24
		NET PAYMENT	£1960.76

Interest Rate %

Retail Price Index (RPI) only



- Your loan interest is set at the RPI; this means your balance only grows in line with inflation, so you effectively only pay back the "real-world value" of what you borrowed.
- Although interest can rise, it has no impact on your monthly repayments – these will always remain at 9% over £25k, regardless of the interest rate.

"Ignore newspaper headlines about students leaving university with £60,000 of debt. That's mostly a meaningless figure. What counts is how much you'll repay." – Martin Lewis (2024)

Apply for student finance online

You will need to know:

- Your course
- Bank Details
- Household Income
- National Insurance Number

Apply by May 2026

www.gov.uk/student-finance



Non-repayable financial support

Additional Support



- Travel Grant
- Disabled Students Allowance (DSA)
- Dependants
- Childcare
- NHS Learning Support Fund:
Including the £5,000 NHS Training Grant

[NHS Learning Support Fund \(LSF\) | NHSBSA](#)

University financial support

UEA bursaries

eligibility (2025/26 – 28/29)	value of UEA bursary
£0-£20,000 household income	£1,600
care leaver	£3,000
estranged	£3,000



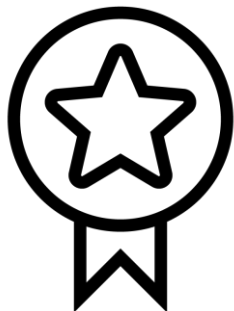
Sports scholarships

Up to £1500 cash and specialist support for student athletes; team and individual scholarships available. Apply by May 2026.



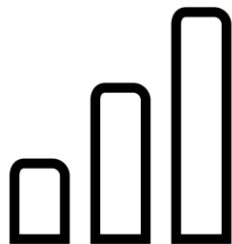
Music scholarships

Up to £1000 per year for 3 years for students to nurture their musical ability whilst studying. Apply by May 2026.



60th anniversary scholarships

30 x £1000 scholarships for students submitting a video or written work. Apply by May 2026.



T level scholarships

£1000 per year, for 3 years for students who achieve a distinction or distinction* overall in their T levels. Apply by June 2026.



Music scholarships

£5000 per year, for 3 years for first generation students with a household income below £30,000. Apply by 1st May 2026.



The David & Jo Spinks scholarship

£5000 per year, for 3 years for one student who enrolls on UEA BA Drama course. Apply by 1st May 2026.

Scholarships

The screenshot displays a scholarship finder interface with a navigation bar at the top. The navigation bar includes a search icon and the text 'Advanced filters', followed by several filter buttons: 'All types', 'University', 'Corporate', 'Scholarships' (which is highlighted), 'Hardship & support', and 'Other'. Below the navigation bar, there is a grid of nine scholarship listings. Each listing includes the scholarship name, a status indicator (a green dot and the text 'Accepting Applications'), the amount, and the provider's name with a logo and a share icon.

Scholarship Name	Status	Amount	Provider
Townsend Scholarships	Accepting Applications	£9,000	Walcot Foundation
Vets Now BAME Scholarship	Accepting Applications		Vets Now
UK Study Online scholarship	Accepting Applications		UK Study Online
The Snowdon Trust Scholarship	Accepting Applications		The Snowdon Trust
President's Award Scheme – Accommodation Scholarships	Accepting Applications		The Royal British Legion Women's Section
Rothschild Scholarship Fund	Accepting Applications	up to £5,000	B'nai B'rith
BeArt Presets Scholarship	Accepting Applications	\$2,500	
The Geospatial Scholarship	Accepting Applications		
Big Give Bursary Fund	Accepting Applications	£1000 per award	

- Check university websites – e.g. UEA Scholarship Finder
- The Scholarship Hub - www.thescholarship.org.uk

What have you learnt?

True or false



The maintenance loan may not cover all of my living costs

True

The cost of living is high, the maintenance loan has recently been increased but many students continue to rely on part time jobs to top up their finances.

Scholarships are not time sensitive

False

Scholarships are time sensitive and often have deadlines which are before students start at university.

Scholarships are always based on grades

False

Scholarships can be based on predicted grades, geography, extra-curricular activities, sports and more...

The DSA will mean I get extra time in exams and other allowances

False

The DSA can support learners financially, but it does not come from universities. You will need to inform your university about any additional support you require.

You need to apply for a bursary

False

Bursaries are usually automatically allocated to students, so long as they agree to share their SFE information with the university they have applied for.

Making the most of your money at university

Part time jobs

- The average student earns £547 per month from their part-time job. National Student Money Survey 2025
- '58% of students rely on part-time work for money'. National Student Money Survey 2025



University jobs



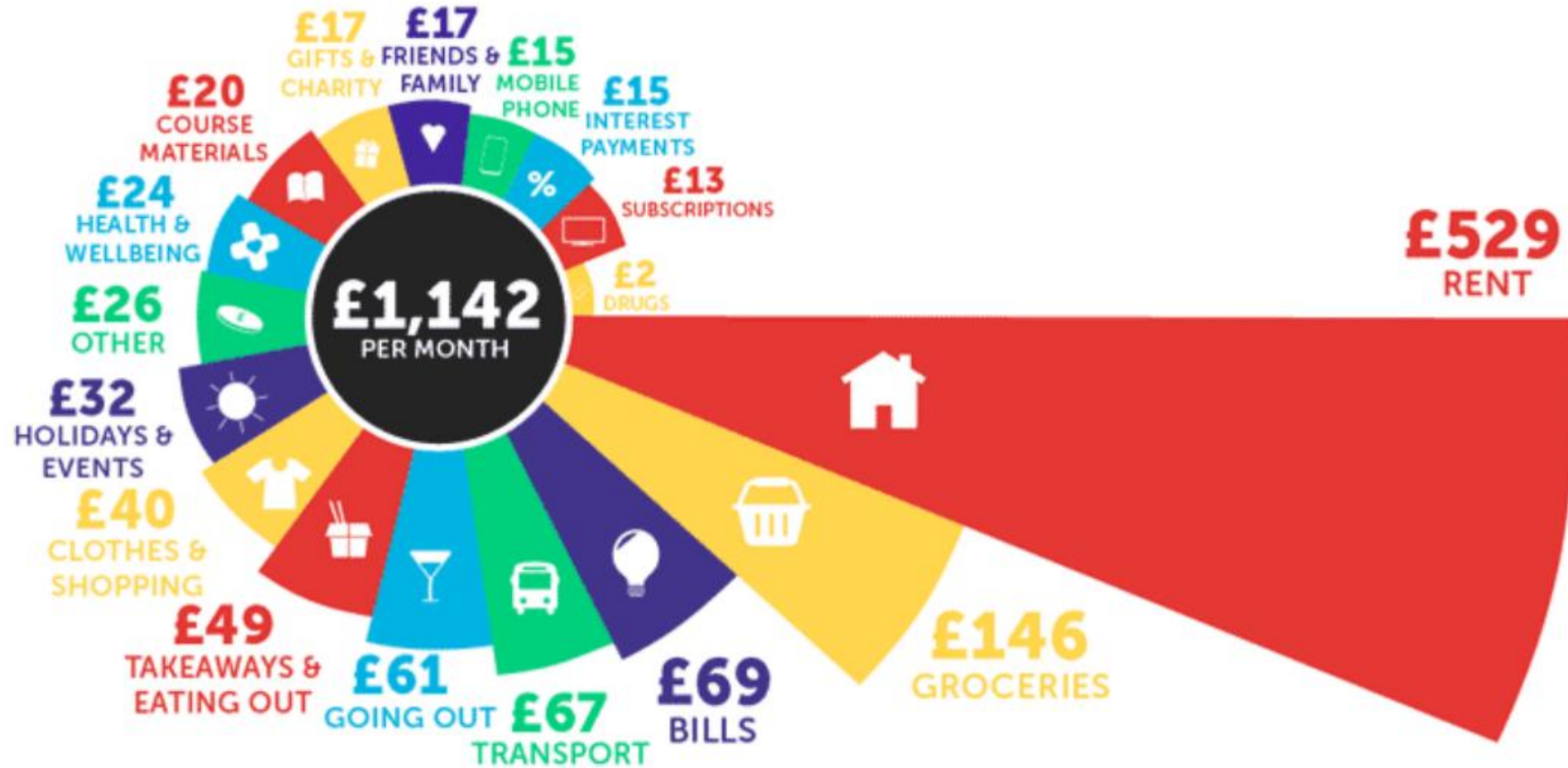
University jobs are great for students because they are flexible and work around studies.

UEA has one of the largest ambassador scheme in the UK

- Student Ambassador (£12.59 p/h); Senior Ambassador (£12.84 p/h)
- Contracted until you graduate
- Student ambassadors might be involved in open days, campus visits, campus tours, social media content, office support and admin work etc.

Student budgeting

Save the student – National Money Survey 2025



Student budgeting

How could you make savings?

outgoing	cost per month	savings
accommodation	£750	Less expensive accommodation option (£673.68 p/m is the cheapest at UEA)
food	£145	Cheaper supermarkets, clubcards, reduced sections, buy in bulk, meal prep, 'too good to go'
travel	£30	16-25 Rail card, bus pass
phone/tech	£25	Sim only, use Uni WiFi, share streaming services
going out	£100	Student discounts, special offers, SU, free events
course costs	£20	Library, second hand book services
clothes	£40	Student discount, share clothes, vinted/ charity shops
hobbies	£20	Student discount, use services offered by university
other	£20	
total	£1,150	

Budgeting top tips



- Students can often treat their student loan like a lottery win in week 1 and by week 10 they're in crisis mode.
- Budgeting is key to stopping this cycle, particularly focusing on your essential and non-essential spending, and living within your means.

Essentials

Rent

Food/ groceries

Bills and utilities

Course supplies

Toiletries and
prescriptions

Transport

Top Tips:

- Don't buy books brand new – there are plenty of second-hand, cheaper options
- Beware of extra essential costs, e.g. laundry can cost £5-10 a week
- Be savvy with your bills – TV License, Streaming services, Wi-Fi, Phone
- Upfront essential costs can save you money in the long term – bus passes, 16-25 rail card, whole year gym memberships

Non - essentials

Going out

Takeaways

Online shopping

Subscriptions

'Convenience
tax'

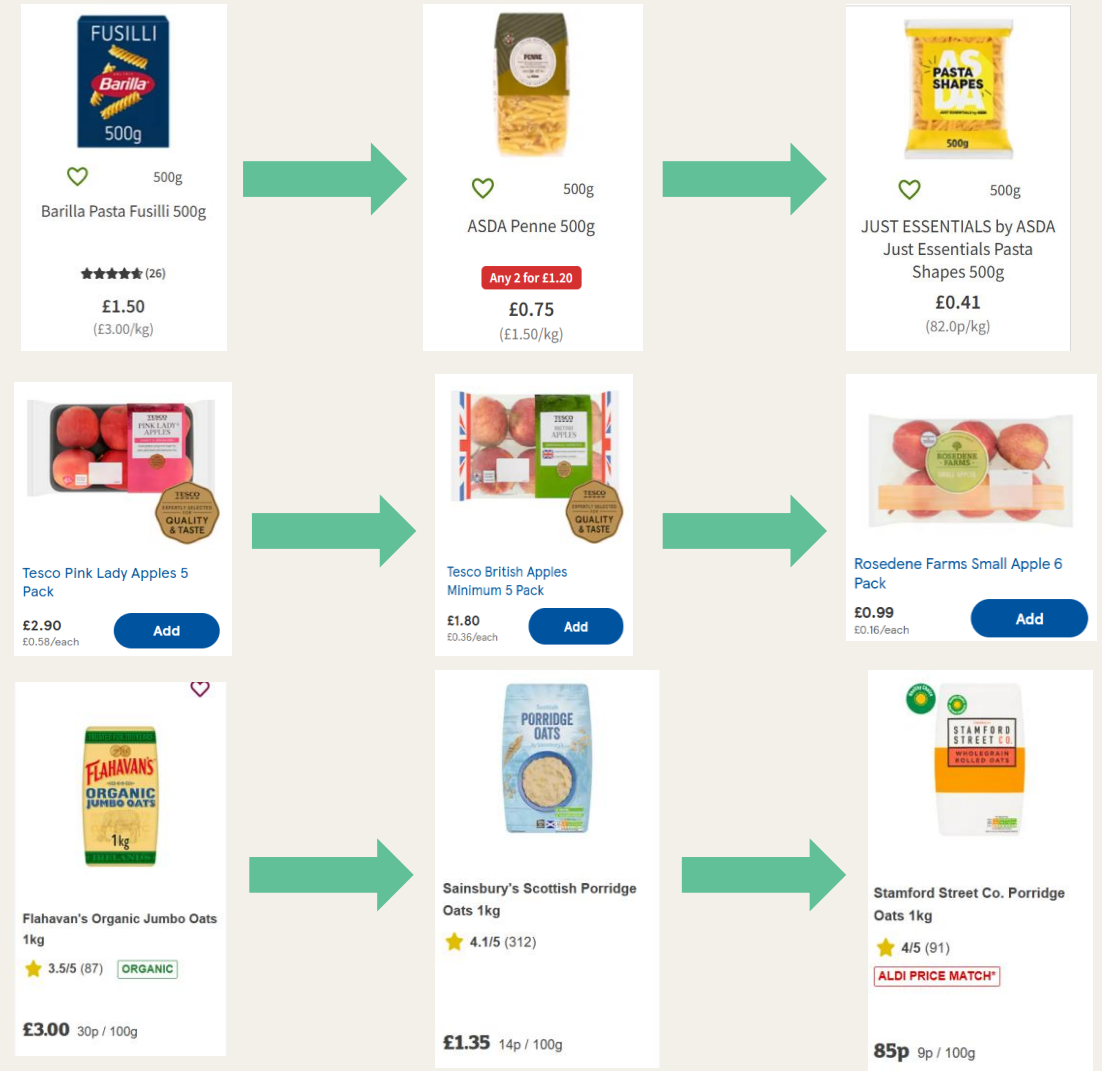
Events/ holidays

Top Tips:

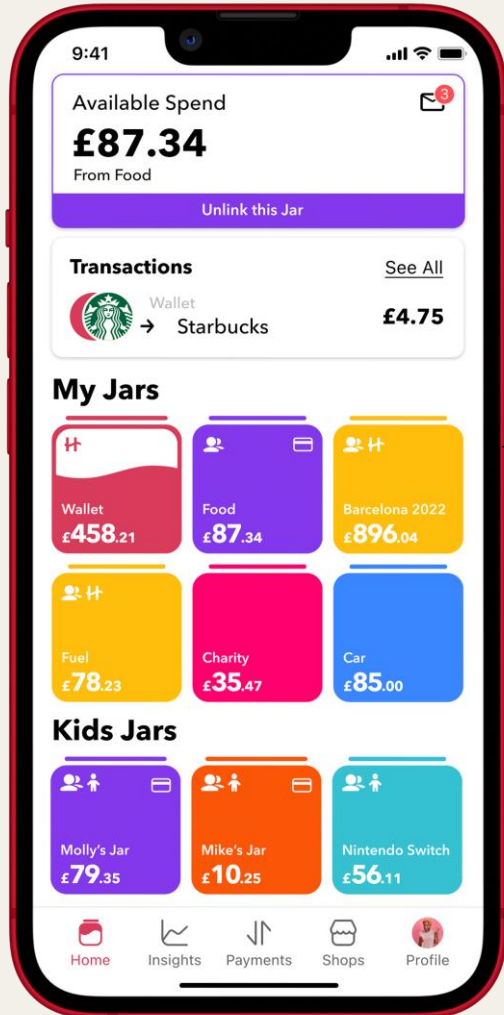
- You don't need to cut out all non-essentials and fun, you need to budget for it.
- Try to cut out the 'Ghost Spend'
- Audit your subscriptions regularly
- Plan ahead to avoid the 'convenience tax'
- 24-hour rule on spends
- Suggest budget friendly alternatives to prevent social pressure leading to overspending

The Downshift Challenge

- Supermarkets often use phrases on their branding to encourage you to buy more expensive items.
- 4 main brand levels – premium, branded, own brand and value.
- MSE Downshift Challenge – “The next time you shop, swap one of everything to something just one brand level lower.”
- You could save up to 30% per year on your food shopping.



Tips for saving money



StudentBeans

Weekly budget check ins

Subscription audit

3 'hero' meals

UNiDAYS

bulk-cooking Sunday



Used - Good
£1.50

Condition

Dispatches from

Sold by

£2.80 delivery 12 - 14 January.
Order within 14 hrs 35 mins. [Details](#)

The book has been read but remains in clean condition. All pages are intact and the cover is intact. So...More







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★★★★★ (2387933 ratings)

89% positive over last 12 months

Add to Basket

Bank account	0% Overdraft	Incentive	Student score
 Santander Edge Student Current Account	Up to £2,000	4 year Railcard	85.2%
 Nationwide FlexStudent	Up to £3,000	£100 cash + £120 vouchers + £20 refer	84.8%
 NatWest Student Account	Up to £3,250*	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.8%
 RBS Student Account	Up to £3,250*	£85 cash + 4 year Tastecard**	86.4%
 HSBC Student Bank Account	Up to £3,000	None	77.2%
 Lloyds Student Account	Up to £2,000	£100 cash + £90 Deliveroo vouchers	78.8%

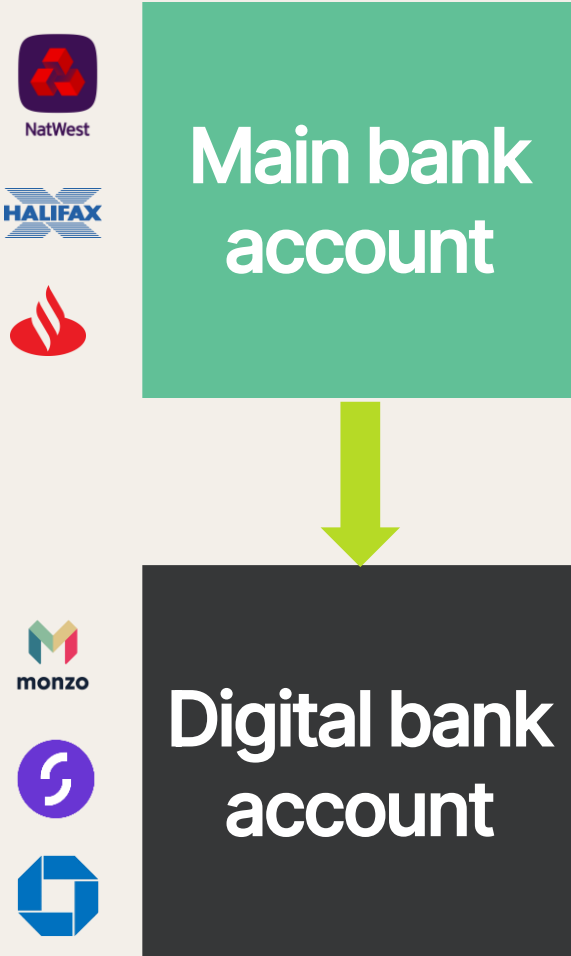
Student bank accounts

- Student bank accounts can benefit students, many offer incentives and 0% overdraft fees.
- Compare the benefits of each before choosing.

Top tips for overdrafts:

- Use it for emergencies only.
- Remember – it is the bank's money; you will have to pay it back!
- Avoid maxing out your overdraft – if you live at the limit of your overdraft, there will be no 'buffer' when a real emergency happens

Student banking tips – paying yourself a salary



- Your student loan is paid in here.
- Do not use the card for this account (don't add to Apple/ Google Pay)
- Transfer money every Monday morning for your 'weekly budget'
- Only use this account to spend on food and fun – live within your means!

What can you do now?

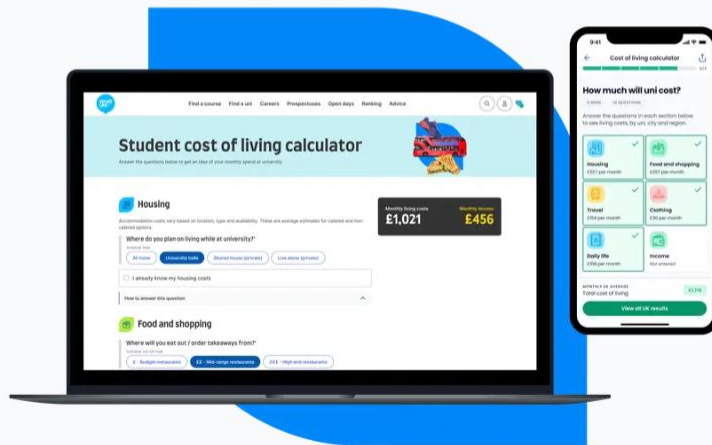


- Use the student finance calculator to check how much your maintenance loan might be.
- Sit down to look at a 'mock budget' this week.
- Start to learn and perfect those '3 hero meals' for when you start uni!

What Uni – cost of living calculator

Student cost of living calculator

Powered by Whatuni



Daily life

How often do you go out to socialise?*

CHOOSE AN OPTION

- Never
- Once a month
- Occasionally
- Once a week
- More than once a week

I already know how much I'll spend

How to answer this question

Which paid streaming services and apps would you use?*

CHOOSE ONE OR MORE

- Amazon Prime
- Apple Music
- Apple TV+
- Audible
- BBC TV Licence
- Disney+
- Calm
- Headspace
- Hulu
- Netflix
- Peloton
- Spotify
- VPN service
- Youtube Premium
- I won't pay for streaming

+ Add option

Monthly living costs

£1,267

Monthly income

£1,000

Any Questions?



This building was opened
by Sir Liam Donaldson
Chief Medical Officer
for England on
3 October 2003

Medical
Student



Student Finance calculator

www.gov.uk/student-finance-calculator

The Money Charity – Student Money Manual

themoneycharity.org.uk/media/The-Student-Money-Manual-2025-26.pdf

Save the Student - How much does university cost?

www.savethestudent.org/student-finance/university-study-cost

What Uni – student cost of living calculator

www.whatuni.com/money/ug-student-budget-calculator/

The Scholarship Hub

www.thescholarshiphub.org.uk/

NHS Learning Support Fund

www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/nhs-learning-support-fund-lsf

Disabled Students Allowance

www.gov.uk/disabled-students-allowance-dsa

Student Journey and Support Services

www.uea.ac.uk/uea-life/student-support

Further Information

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uea.ac.uk/visit

Tasters and Webinars

uea.ac.uk/study/tasters



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Saturday 4 July
Saturday 26 September
Saturday 24 October
Saturday 28 November



Visit the Virtual Open Day



- Explore our campus virtually
- Interactive 360 tours
- Student content
- Discover Norwich
- Tools and tips

