



STUDENT BUDGETING SKILLS WORK BOOK

This pack is designed to support learners by offering information about how to manage their own finances.



During this workbook, you're going to imagine that you're getting ready to become a **first year student at a university** outside London.

INTRODUCTION TO BUDGETING SKILLS

One of the big skills that many students need to master when they start university is managing their own finances – especially if they move into student accommodation and need to pay rent and do their own shopping! In this work book we'll have a look at building some of these skills and what budgeting choices students might make.

This workbook is broken down into a series of 10 smaller activities; you can complete them all at once or pause after each activity and come back to them later. If you complete this workbook all in one go, it should take around 20/30 minutes to complete.

At the end of the workbook you'll understand

- **More about Student Finance for university**
- **How to find out more about Student Finance**
- **What sort of budgeting considerations students have**
- **Some ideas of how to save money as a student**

If you need help with any aspects of the workbook, you can live chat a member of our team on www.shaping-futures.org.uk – they're happy to help or explain more.



Activity 1

Let's start by deciding what you're going to study. You can pick anything you want – it might be a subject you do now, like English, Chemistry or PE, or it might be something completely new like Ancient History, Biotechnology or Architecture!

You can also pick a university – we're really lucky in the Liverpool City Region to have quite a few to choose from, lots of which are Shaping Futures partner institutions. You can see these partners on our website: www.shaping-futures.org.uk.

What course would you like to do?

Which university would you like to study at?

If you don't know, you can have a look at www.ucas.com for inspiration, but you can also leave these questions blank if you'd like.

Activity 2

You're going to work out how you'd spend your money if you were a student. So first, you need to know how much money you'll have.

As a student, you'll receive a Tuition Fee Loan to cover your tuition costs, and a Maintenance Loan to cover your living costs. All eligible students can access a Tuition Fee Loan but the amount of Maintenance Loan you'll receive as a student will depend on your household income, whether you live with your parents or move into student accommodation, and where you chose to study. To find out more about this you can visit our website or www.gov.uk/student-finance

Household Income	Students living at home	Students living away from parents outside of London	Students living away from parents in London
£25,000 & under	£7,747	£9,203	£12,010
£30,000	£7,095	£8,544	£11,340
£35,000	£6,442	£7,884	£10,670
£40,000	£5,789	£7,225	£10,000
£45,000	£5,137	£6,565	£9,330
£50,000	£4,484	£5,905	£8,659
£55,000	£3,831	£5,246	£7,989
£60,000	£3,410	£4,586	£7,319
£65,000	£3,410	£4,289	£6,649
£70,000	£3,410	£4,289	£5,981

The chart above breaks down the amount of finance you could expect for different household incomes.

For the purposes of this workbook, we're going to imagine you have a household income of £30,000.

How much student finance would you receive living away from your parents, outside of London?

Activity 3

As well as a Maintenance Loan, students might receive extra income from bursaries or scholarships, which is extra money provided to students from their universities. Scholarships are provided to reward students in areas of excellence, such as sport, music or academics, while bursaries provide support to students from low income backgrounds or from underrepresented groups within the student body. Bursaries and scholarships vary between universities in terms of amounts and eligibility but this information is available on university websites. Below is a sample bursary scheme that a university might offer:

	Household income of £25,000 or less	Household income of £25,001 to £30,000	Household income of £30,001 or more
Bursary amount	£1,500	£1,000	£0

If your household income is the same as it was in Activity Two, how much bursary would you receive?



Activity 4

To create a budget, you need to know how much money you have to work with. For most adults, this will mean looking at how much they're paid each month but for students it's a little different, because Student Finance payments go into their bank 3 times a year, one at the start of each term.

Since student accommodation is charged weekly, we're going to work out the budget you have per week.

Start by adding your answers for **Activity Two** and **Activity Three** together, to get your yearly income:

You'll then need to divide this by 52 for the weeks in a year:

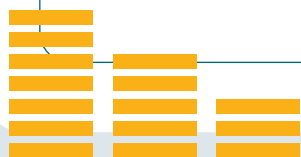
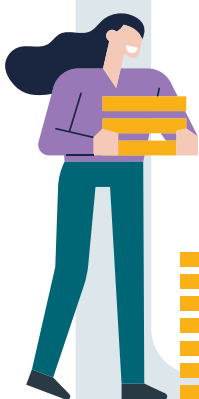
Although you aren't at university all year round, and only need to pay accommodation for around 40 weeks per year, when you're not at university you'll still have costs like travel home or deposit for the next years accommodation.

Activity 5

Lots of students find that they have extra time at university when they aren't studying, at lectures or socialising. Many will choose to spend this time working to get extra income to increase their weekly budget. Students might choose to work in shops, restaurants or even at their university as a student guide for tours - lots of universities provide support to help students find jobs in the local area.

The minimum wage for an 18 year old is £6.45 per hour and universities recommend students don't work any more than 16 hours a week.

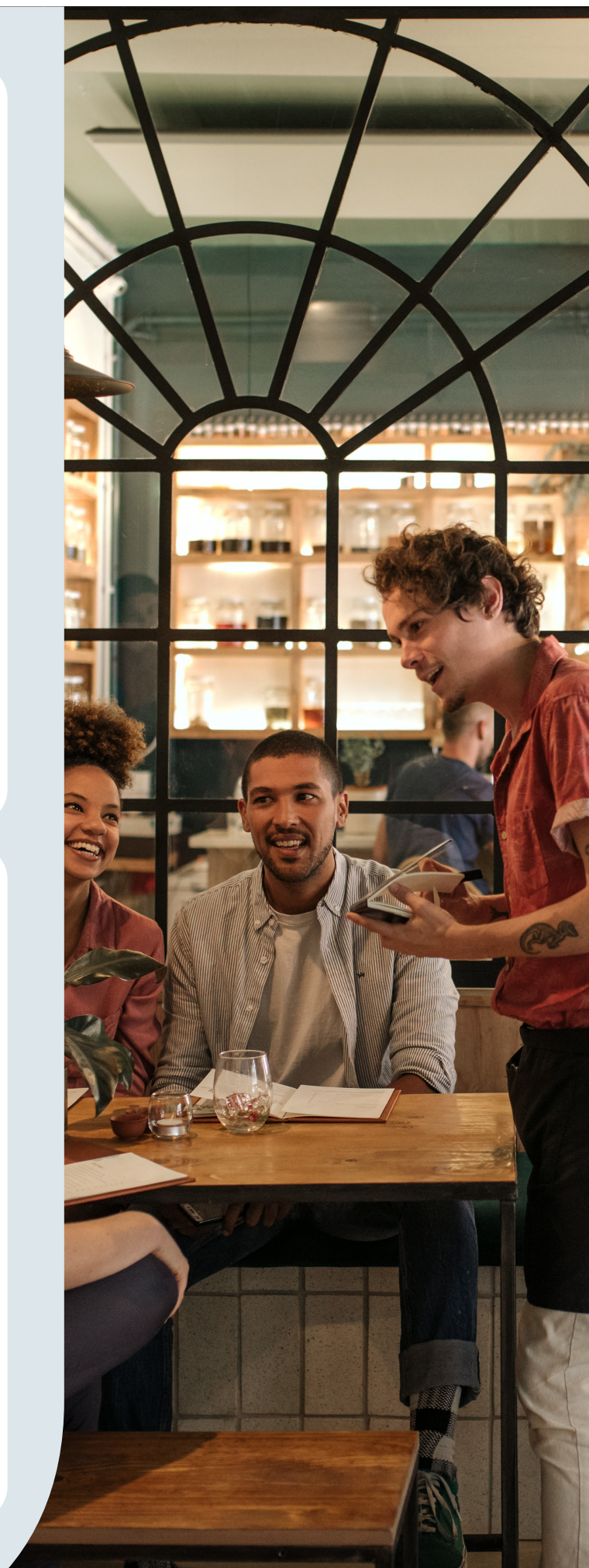
Decide how many hours a week you'd like to work and assuming you earn minimum wage, work out how much you'd earn per week:



Activity 6

Add your total from **Activity Four** and your Extra Income from **Activity Five** to get your final weekly budget:

How do you feel about that?
Does it seem like a lot of money to you, or not enough?



Activity 7

One of the biggest choices and costs for students is their student accommodation – there are a lot of choices such as:

- **Catered or self-catered?** Catered accommodation usually provides breakfast and an evening meal, this is more expensive than self catered but can make it easier for students who aren't confident in their cooking
- **On campus or off campus?** Off campus accommodation is usually cheaper than on campus, but means a longer travel time to university and potentially additional travel costs
- **En-suite or shared bathroom?** Shared bathroom accommodation is the cheaper option, but not everyone is happy to share a bathroom!

Not all universities have all accommodation types available, but every university will have an accommodation section on their website so you can see what options they have available.

Below are some of the options at the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University – have a think about which you'd like best and tick the one you pick.



Accommodation type	Cost	Tick your chosen accommodation
Vine court – UoL On campus / catered / en-suite	£218.96	
Crown place – UoL On campus / self-catered / en-suite	£154	
Melville Grove – UoL On campus / self-catered / shared bathroom	£142.73	
Marybone – LJMU Off campus / self-catered / en-suite	£121.50	
Off campus / self-catered / shared bathroom	£102	

How much does your accommodation cost per week?



Activity 8

You'll need to do your own food shopping when you're at university – so it's a great idea to help your parents/carers with it before you go to help you get used to it! Exactly how much people will spend depends on lots of factors like the supermarkets available, preferences and dietary requirements, so the costs below are a very rough guide.

Breakfast and evening meal

Remember, you don't need to budget for these if you chose catered accommodation!

Cost per week	What you'd get for that
£15	A very basic shop with no branded goods. You'd shop around at budget supermarkets and focus on offers.
£25	A more comprehensive shop with some branded goods and treats. You might shop at Asda or Tesco.
£35	A much bigger shop with lots of branded goods and treats. You might shop at Sainsbury's.
£45	A luxury food shop with expensive items. You might shop at Marks and Spencer Food Hall



Lunch

Students often buy their lunches on the university campus – a Tesco Meal Deal is £3 so if you think you'd eat on campus add £15 to your cost per week above. If you think you could be organised and make lunch to take to university every day add £7 to your cost per week for lunch preparation.

How much would you spend on food each week?



Activity 9

There are lots of other things that students spend money on – have a guess of what you'd spend on each per week below! Some things to consider:

- If you've chosen on campus accommodation you won't need any travel costs.
If not, the average cost of daily transport is £4
- Universities will usually have copies of books in libraries for you to use but you'll need to be organised as there are a limited quantity. If you'd prefer to buy your own the average text book costs around £40 and most students buy around 6 per year, so that would be an average weekly cost of £4.80 to include in your budget

Spending area	How much I think I'd spend per week
Travel	
Books/Stationary	
Toiletries (including shower gel, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, make-up)	
Socialising (including eating out, takeaways, cinema trips, gigs and societies)	
Clothes	
Mobile phone bill	
Total	





If you want to find out more about how you can build your financial skills, have a look at Barclays Life Skills: **barclayslifeskills.com**.

They can also help with employability and life skills!

Future Learn also have a short course on building financial fundamentals:

www.futurelearn.com/programs/finance-fundamentals

Activity 10

Well done, you've put together a draft budget for student life!
Now we'll have a look at how it compares to the money you might have.

Go back to **Activity Six** and jot down the budget you had to work with as a reminder:

Add together your totals for **Activity Seven, Eight and Nine** to get your total expenditure:

Let's compare the two – if your expenditure is less than your budget, well done!
You've managed your money well and have some left over for savings.

If your expenditure is higher than your budget, don't worry. Managing money is a tricky skill and one you'll get better at the more practice you have. **Go back through Activities Seven, Eight and Nine and have a look at where you might be able to save money.** You could also think about increasing your hours in Activity Five, as long as you stay under 16 per week.

SHAPING FUTURES

The Merseyside Collaborative
Outreach Programme



Tell us what you think ...
Click here to fill in our survey

Contact us

You can contact us by
email **admin@shaping-futures.info**
or **www.shaping-futures.org.uk**

Chat to us!

Got questions? **Click here**
chat to one of our team,
we are here to help.



[@shapingfutures_](https://twitter.com/shapingfutures)

