Arts University Bournemouth

COST OF LIVING AND BUDGETING YOUR MONEY

A guide on how much things cost, so you can budget for your time as an international student in the UK.

How much money should I bring with me to the UK?

You will need to bring some money with you to cover your initial expenses. We do not recommend that you bring large amounts of cash. It can take from two to four weeks to open and use a UK bank account, so make sure you have ways to access money while you wait for your UK account to open.

The amount of money you will need to cover your initial expenses will depend on your accommodation situation. If you have already organised and made all of the appropriate payments for your accommodation, **£400 should probably cover your initial expenses until you open a bank account**. If you are looking for private accommodation, you will usually be required to pay a deposit and one or more month's rent in advance, so you will need to budget accordingly.

If you are planning to use a credit or debit card from your bank at home when you arrive in the UK, you should check before you leave if you can use it in the UK, and if there are any limits on the amount you can withdraw/pay per day. You should also check how much money you will be charged each time you use your card. The most common credit cards in the UK are Visa and MasterCard.

Budgeting

Here are a few things to consider when thinking about your budget:

- Bus fare
- Mobile phone top-up or contract
- Home and content insurance
- Medical insurance
- Food
- Clothing
- Laundry
- Study equipment and course trips
- Going out
- Hobbies, music, etc.
- Holidays and travel
- Presents and gifts
- AUBSU clubs and societies (0-£50 each)

If you are not living in one of AUB's halls of residence you will also need to consider the following:

- Water bills
- Gas bills
- Electricity bills
- TV License
- Landline telephone, internet connection

One-off costs

Expenses and approximate costs:

- Bedding (duvet, pillows, sheets and pillowcases) **£52**
- Laptop, from **£230**
- Tablet, from **£150**
- Membership of a student society **£1 to £10**
- Gym membership (at University gym):

Annual Premium	**£199.99**
Monthly	**£26.99**
Day Pass	**£8.49**

- Kitchen equipment (plates, cutlery and pans) **£85**
- Insurance for personal belongings (in private accommodation) **£150** per year

Useful Links

Tips for student on how to save money and a student budget calculator:
https://www.savethestudent.org/money/student-budgeting/student-budget-calculators.html

Guide to student accommodation bills:
https://www.savethestudent.org/accommodation/guide-to-student-energy-bills.html

Univeristy Kits, delivered before you arrive: ***www.unikitout.com***

International scholarships: ***https://aub.ac.uk/international/international-scholarships***

Fees and financial support: ***https://aub.ac.uk/fees***

UKCISA guide about Finances for international students in UK:
https://www.ukcisa.org.uk/student-advice/finances/

Accommodation

Cost type	Weekly costs	Monthly costs	Notes
AUB Halls of Residence	**£185–£256**		The average tenancy is 41–51 weeks. The total rent costs are between **£7,770–£10,557** for an en-suite room and **£10,557–£13,056** for a studio. You can find more information about AUB's accommodation on our website: aub.ac.uk/accommodation
Private rented accommodation	**£92–£220**	**£420–£1,000**	Private rented accommodation tenancy agreements are usually 11–12 months. Bills aren't often included in rent costs.
Bills (non-university accommodation)		**£40–£79**	Make sure you allow room in your budget for bills. Bills may include electricity or gas, water, internet and TV license.
Deposit (non-university accommodation)			Deposit is a sum that a landlord can request at beginning of a tenancy as security against non-payment of rent or damage of property. This is usually the equivalent of between one week's rent or one month's rent.
Laundry		**£20.80**	Prices of washing and drying in student accommodations and public laundromats vary.
Toiletries and household/ everyday items		**£10–£20**	Remember that you might need to budget for one-off items like bedding, towels, tableware and cooking utensils.

Personal expenses

Cost type	Monthly costs	Yearly costs	Notes
Groceries	**£100–£133**		Top tip: the cheapest supermarkets in Bournemouth are Aldi and Lidl. Prices vary from shop to shop.
Takeaways and eating out	**£49–£66**	**£420–£1,000**	With award-winning beaches, buzzing nightlife, mini-golf courses, cinemas, water parks, gardens, shops and restaurants all within a five-mile radius of our campus, there's lots to keep you busy and entertained. Find out more at: ***aub.ac.uk/guide-to-bournemouth*** or ***International Guide to Bournemouth***
Entertainment and social activities	**£59–£69**		
Clothes and shopping	**£40–£80**		Shops on Bournemouth's high street include Tiger, HMV, Boots, TKMaxx, Specsavers, Zara, Deichmann, Saltrock, The Works, Primark and many more! **Top tip**: try Bournemouth's charity shops and thrift stores or use the Vinted app to buy second-hand clothes at much lower prices.
Travel with Unibus		**£295** (or **£308** depending on tier)	You can also buy ten single multi-trip tickets for £12.50.
Mobile phone	**£18–£24**		The cost of your moblie phone contract will vary, and whether you want to pay for SIM only, phone and SIM, and insurance.
Trips, holidays, travel back home		**£500**	This depends on how far away from home you live and how often you travel.