

OUR PLEDGE

Campus Living Villages say:

We want all our residents to make a smooth transition into university life. We know juggling finances and making ends meet can be difficult and that this can prevent some of our residents from achieving their academic goals.

This guide is a collection of top tips and information to help you make the most of your money.

Remember, you can always speak to your university support service, Student Union or Campus Living Villages' Customer Service Advisor if you have money worries. They are there to help!



www.campuslivingvillages.co.uk

#MONEYHACKS

Stay in control – Don't shop when you're hungry or under the influence. Go out with a shopping list of things you need – remember YOU have the power to stick to it!

Be a clever customer – Don't be afraid to take things back to the shop if they don't work. Try to get discounts, and shop around for the best deals.

Time it – Most supermarkets reduce their prices to get rid of stock at the end of the day – shop at the right time and you can bag yourself some bargains.

Plan to print - Printing can cost a small fortune so print wisely and double sided. University printing is usually cheaper than print shops so don't wait till the last minute to print assignments!

Sharing is caring – Shop and cook with friends to make your money go further. You can benefit from bulk buying, 2-4-1 offers and cooking large batches of food to freeze.

Mix it up – Buy 'value' or 'supermarket-own' brands of food and even clothing. Often the cheaper versions are made by the same companies and factories anyway.

Future-proof student finance - Remember that everyone receives different student loan amounts. It's your responsibility to manage it - especially the third payment which has to last all summer!

Press pause – When the urge hits to splash out, try waiting 24 hours and consider whether you still really want the item. If so, buy it, but waiting can help avoid impulse buying which you later regret.

Eat from home – You can save over £100 a month by taking your own packed lunches, drinks and snacks out with you.

Dare yourself - Understand and manage your personal 'temptations' - if your guilty pleasure is a coffee, dare yourself to half your consumption and track how much you are saving.

Love your library - Library fees are no laughing matter - they soon rise and if you don't pay, you can lose your library rights, and even your right to graduate :-o

Chase the change – Loose change always adds up, and can come in useful, for example to pay for laundry.

#DEALINGWITHDEBT



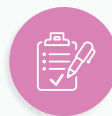
Don't pretend there's nothing wrong

The problem won't go away. The longer you leave it the worse it gets.



Get help from an independent debt help organisation

Especially if you get taken to court. Fill in reply forms to court papers and let the court have all the facts. Always go to court hearings and take your personal budget with you. If you are struggling there are organisations that can help with debt, like your Universities and Campus Living Villages.



Work out your personal budget

This is what you should show your creditors (those you owe money) when you contact them.



Don't lose heart

Even if creditors are difficult or persistent, if the first person you speak to is unhelpful, ask to speak to someone more senior and stand your ground.



Always keep a record

Of letter and papers you send or receive. Also make a note of all calls you make and what happened.



Get in touch with your creditors straight away

Explain your situation, and be honest about your circumstances. Don't be talked into making payments or arrangements you can't afford!



Don't borrow money

Borrowing to pay bills & debt can get you into more trouble, so don't do it without thinking carefully and getting advice first.



TALK TO VILLAGE STAFF!

Your Campus Living Village team can offer support and information regarding managing and getting out of debt. Remember to contact your Village team if you think there may be issues in paying your rent - they are there to help!



Stay calm



Deal with it



Speak Up

MONEY MYTHS

#FreeDough

My overdraft is free money

You might get an interest free overdraft when studying and lots of students will max this out! Once you graduate, the overdraft offered can reduce quickly and stop being interest free. Extra charges can affect your credit score, making it more difficult for you to get a phone contract, loan or mortgage in the future.

#OnTheRun

If I move abroad after Uni, I can avoid paying back my Student Loan

You will still need to pay your loan back. Think you can hide on a sunny beach somewhere? Think again... the government has started to hire **debt collectors overseas** to get back the money from those loan dodgers :-o

#StayingForFree

If I don't pay my rent, they can't kick me out because I'd be homeless

Like all other accommodation, you will need to pay your rent on time to keep your property. While there might be help available if you're in trouble with your money, you don't have any special protection from eviction just because you're a student. If you haven't made a rent payment, your landlord will start a debt collection process including:

- Sending formal debt letters
- Organising meetings with you to discuss the situation
- Contacting your guarantor
- Your room will be at risk so speak up if you're stuck – Village staff can't help you if they don't know anything is wrong.

#GreasyLiving

Takeaways are cheaper than doing food shopping

While one burger might be cheaper than your weekly shop, the **costs add up** when eating out regularly! Planning your meals will save you TONS of cash, as will sharing & cooking with friends.

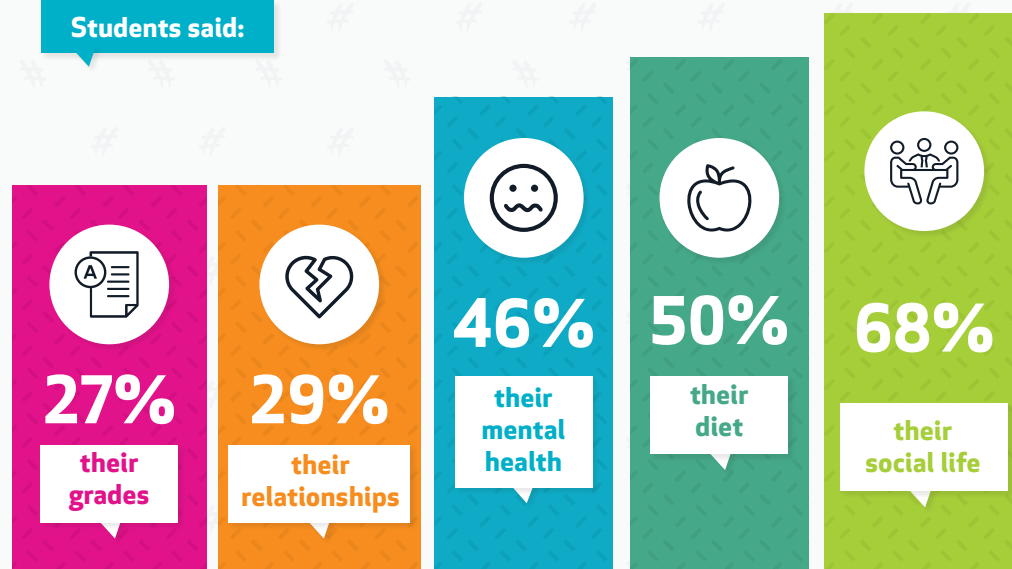
#WhyBother

When I graduate, all my earnings will go to pay off my student loan

Actually, you'll only pay **9%** of anything you earn **above £25,000**. If you never make £25,000+ a year, then you never pay anything back. For example, if you earn £30,000 after you graduate, you'll pay back £37.50 a month towards your loan. Also remember – if you haven't paid the full amount by the 30th year after you graduate, they will WIPE YOUR DEBT!

What suffers when you're strapped for cash?

Students said:



76%

of uni students work part-time to help fund their studies.

56%

of students found uni way more expensive than they expected

#WORKANDSTUDY

How much could I make?

£412

Is the amount the average student earns in a month during term time

That's...

£4,944

...a year
(even more if you work extra during uni holidays!)



*Statistics taken from Campus Living Villages' Financing the Future student survey 2018

#BUDGETING

BUDGETING is the single most useful and important thing anyone can do to improve their financial situation! People who spend just 20 mins a month tracking & planning their income and outgoings save on average £1,000 per year.

HOW?



Notes on your phone



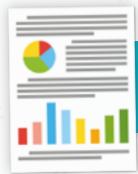
Multiple Apps which can be downloaded and help separate spending areas



Online forms through money expert websites



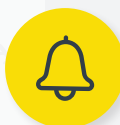
Post-its on your wall / notebooks / on a notice board!



Trusty Excel spreadsheets



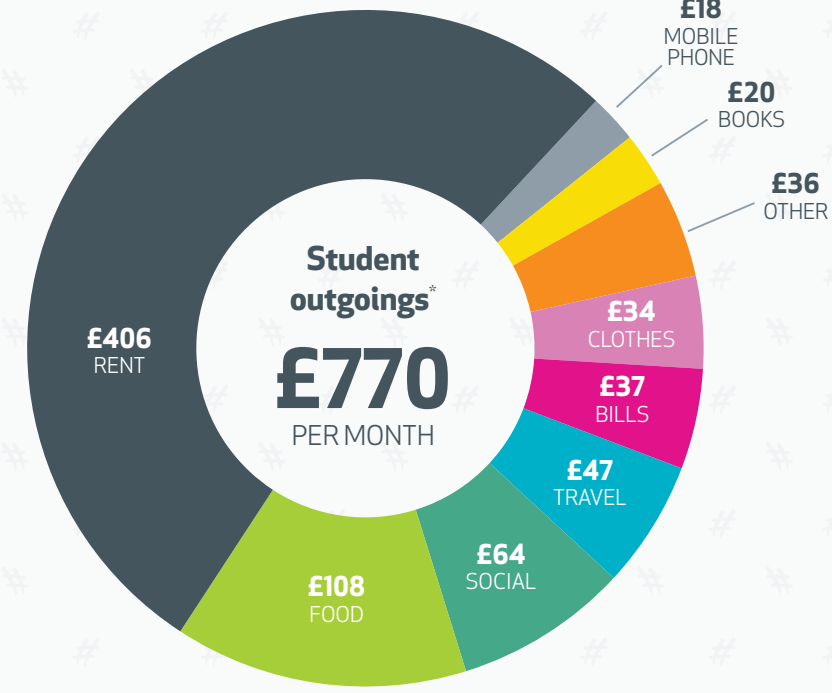
Ask our Village Staff for support and use one of our cribb sheets and budget planners



Remember!

A budget is a live document that is constantly changing – if something changes in your life, your budget should change too.

#LIVINGCOSTS



GIG ECONOMY APPS

There are loads of apps that let you do odd jobs (like fixing flat pack furniture, delivering food or even taking pictures of products) and GET PAID FOR IT!

JOB AT YOUR UNI

It's a big place and most unis will hire students in a number of roles – note takers, student ambassadors, for IT help desks, library staff etc.

GRANTS / BURSARIES

Make sure you're getting all the help you're entitled to. Check with your university if there's any extra financial support or bursaries available. Also check out websites like www.turn2us.org.uk to see if there are any other funds you can access.

*Average figures from academic year 2017/18

How can you make extra money?

GET A PART TIME JOB

It's a lot more common for students to work than you may think and this means you have more money to play with.

MYSTERY SHOPPING

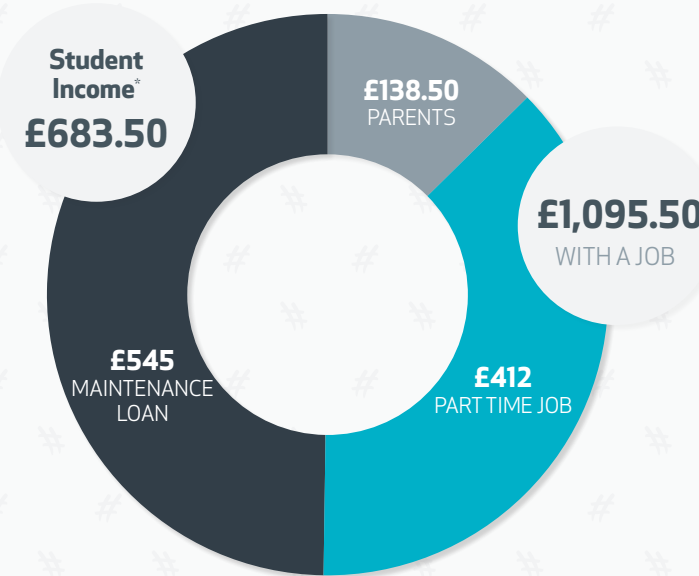
Get paid to check how good a shop / pub / event really is.

FOCUS GROUPS

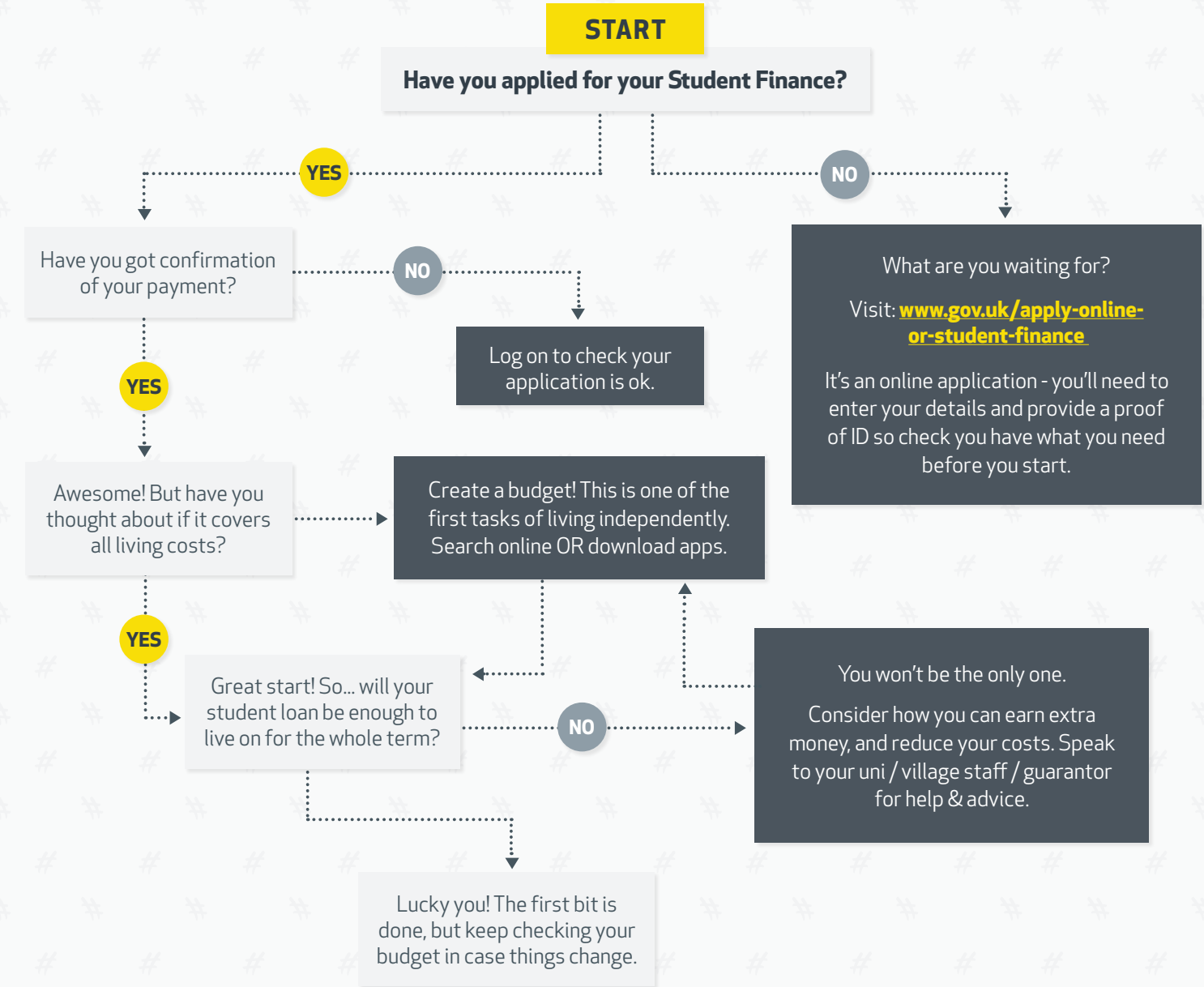
Companies are willing to pay you for your opinions - focus groups tend to pay better money but are often face to face.

ONLINE SURVEYS

You can earn by completing online surveys about your shopping and lifestyle habits



#STUDENTFINANCE

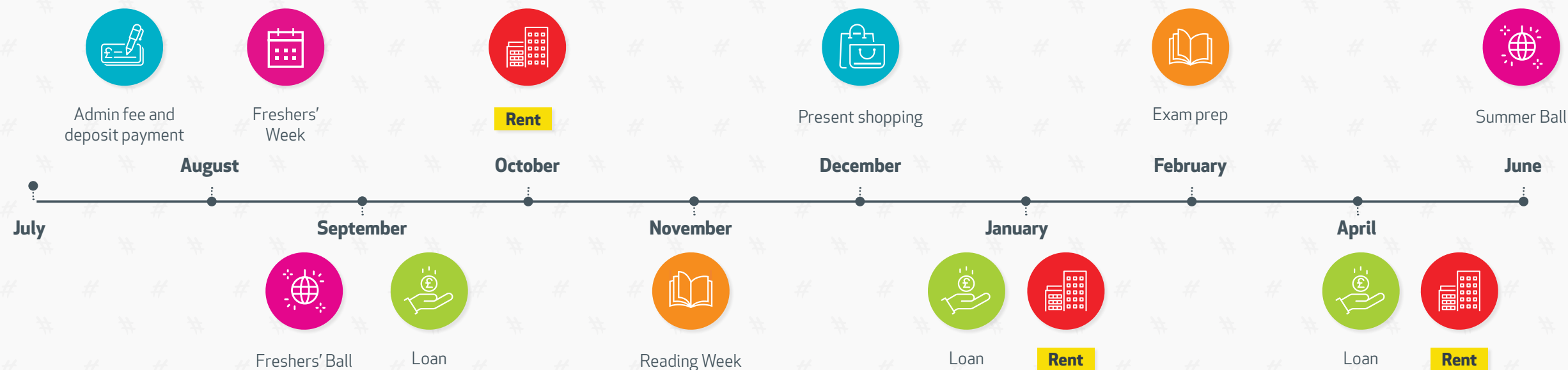


#TIMELINE



Rent will come out in 3 or 4 instalments (which may include August) depending on your Uni - check dates!

campuslivingvillages.co.uk



Costs you may forget to plan for



TV license



Holidays



Resources



University balls and events



Deposit for year 2



Course trips



Birthdays



Visiting family



Books