

Managing your money as a mature student

We know mature students at Sheffield Hallam are diverse in nature; but whatever your background, managing your money whilst studying can be an issue.

Here are some top tips to help you manage your finances as a student.

Top tip	Useful websites
Open a student bank account as most high street banks offer dedicated Student Accounts, with features and benefits aimed at students. These can range from travel cards to preferential overdraft rates. It's worth shopping around to find the account that will suit you best	http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/students/Student-bank-account
Remember SFE loans are paid termly and NHS bursaries monthly so ensure to budget on this basis. You may wish to use a computer program or spreadsheet for this to keep track of income and expenses	www.gov.uk/studentfinance www.nhsbsa.nhs.uk/students https://trackeverycoin.com
Access Blackbullion which is an easy-to-use online resource designed to develop your financial skills and help you maximise the value and benefit of bursaries, benefits and other types of financial aid	http://www.blackbulliononline.co.uk
If you are a full time student, you are exempt from paying council tax. The Sheffield Council Website provides further information on this and a link to the required form	https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/council-tax/students/exemptions.html
You may be exempt from certain NHS costs such as dental and optical fees. However this is not a blanket student exemption and will depend upon your specific circumstances	http://www.nhs.uk/NHSEngland/Healthcosts/Pages/help-with-health-costs.aspx
Use your student card, as this can give you discounts at many high-street shops. Unsure if the store offers a discount? Just ask. Many establishments have mid-week student offers, make the most of these deals by making midweek the new weekend	http://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/discounts
Buy a 16-25 rail card, as this will save you a 1/3 on rail fare and despite the name, is available for any student attending college or university for 15 hours or more a week for at least 20 weeks a year, regardless of age	http://www.16-25railcard.co.uk
Food bills can be a large part of anyone's outlay. By planning your weekly meal and shopping around for offers on food, you can make large savings.	http://www.mysupermarket.co.uk

Many supermarkets discount fresh food towards the end of the day, so shop later in the day to take advantage of this.	
Everyone loves a bargain but to ensure you are getting the best price use online research to compare prices	http://www.pricerunner.co.uk
Books are an essential for any course but if you buy all the books on your reading list, the cost will soon mount up. Use The Adsetts Centre and Collegiate Learning Centre instead. They are open 24 hours a day and are well stocked with books and research material. Keep track of your library loans return dates, as late penalties can soon add up.	http://library.shu.ac.uk https://students.shu.ac.uk/shuspacecontent/library-services
If you can, walk or bike to university, it's cheaper than public transport and no need to worry about parking charges.	http://walkit.com https://students.shu.ac.uk/shuspacecontent/facilities/find-your-way-around-campus
Be security aware; remember to lock your windows and doors. Otherwise you may have to pay to replace stolen items	http://southyorks.police.uk/Bewise https://www.immobilise.com

For further advice on managing your finances visit

Hallam Union Advice Centre

Phone 0114 225 4148

www.hallamstudentsunion.com/advice_help

Student Funding and Money Skills

Phone 0114 225 3813

<https://students.shu.ac.uk/shuspacecontent/finance/student-financial-support-centre>

August 2015