How much will it all cost? - Student Recruitment & Admissions

Info for parents: How much will it all cost?

What are the benefits and is it worth it?
What actually has to be paid for?
What additional help is available?

Many parents and guardians worry about the cost of Higher Education and many people are unsure as to what support is now available for students starting their courses. Recent changes to regulations have been the source of much concern throughout the UK and much of the media coverage has not helped the situation.

First of all we should emphasise the advantages of going on to Higher Education.

What are the benefits and is it worth it?

Higher education offers students the chance to develop and exploit the talents, intellect and knowledge they acquired at school or college as well as the transferable skills that employers want - problem solving, team working, communication and presentation.

Higher education provides the opportunity to make new friends, to live independently and to experience a whole range of new challenges and opportunities.

Research shows that:

- Graduates have more careers options than non-graduates
- Graduates enjoy accelerated promotion prospects
- Graduates are less likely to be unemployed than non-graduates
- Graduates are likely to earn more than non-graduates

So what actually has to be paid for?

Whether or not a student has to pay fees depends on a number of factors and the position differs for students from different parts of the UK. The Scottish Executive has recently abolished upfront tuition fees for students living in Scotland in favour of a graduate endowment paid after graduation. As the funding situation depends on where your son and daughter stays in the UK we have included links to the web sites for the main UK funding bodies. They are better placed to answer your questions about this constantly evolving position of Student Support.

- [www.student-support-saas.gov.uk](http://www.student-support-saas.gov.uk) for students resident in Scotland
- [www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm](http://www.dfes.gov.uk/index.htm) for students resident in England and Wales
- [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) for students resident in Northern Ireland

The main costs incurred by students are accommodation, living costs, social life and in some cases transport. It is impossible for us to say what a student needs to live as this depends very much on their lifestyle and will vary significantly from student to student.

However a rough estimate of costs (excluding fees) that a student might have to budget for in first year follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation costs (full board)</td>
<td>2700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional foodstuffs</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Books and stationery</td>
<td>200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clothes</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Telephone</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Postage</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sport and Leisure</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other costs</td>
<td>350</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL** £4530

What other support is available?

In addition to the support available from the Student Awards Agency Scotland (or your local funding body) there are additional sources of help available from the University. For more information about the University Bursary schemed and other awards go to [www.ed.ac.uk/bursaries/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/bursaries/)

Many students now work Part time during their holidays and indeed during term time. In an effort to enable students to find appropriate employment The University has established the Student Employment Service sometimes called the Student Job Shop. For more information about the service go to [www.ed.ac.uk/SES/](http://www.ed.ac.uk/SES/)

Applicants may in some cases be able to apply for financial support from Educational Trust Funds. The organisation Scholarship Search UK provides a freely searchable database of Undergraduate and Postgraduate
awards at [www.scholarship-search.org.uk](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk/). It contains information on much more than just scholarships.

Information on Sponsorship is available in the publication *Everything You Wanted to know about Sponsorship and Graduate Opportunities*, published by Ameoba Publications ([ISBN 0 9514629 3 8](http://www.sra.ed.ac.uk/parents/how_much.html))

The Advice Place run by the Students’ Association provides staff trained to provide financial advice to all students.