

Student Finance and Money Management

A Guide for International Students
2011–12



Contents

Welcome	3	7. Supplementary income	17
1. Money matters on arrival	4	Part-time work	17
Finance in the first few weeks	4	Bursaries and scholarships	17
How much money should you bring with you?	4	Federal student aid	17
2. Opening a bank account	4	8. International Student Advice Service (ISAS)	18
UK bank accounts	4	How can ISAS help me?	18
What type of account can you get?	4	9. Financial hardship	18
Bank account hints and tips	4	Where do I go if I find myself in financial difficulty?	18
What documents do I need to open a bank account?	5	10. Money Doctors	19
Debit cards	6	How can Money Doctors help me?	19
3. Managing your money	6	How can I contact a Money Doctor?	19
Living expenses	6	11. Useful websites	19
Travel expenses	8	EU and international students	19
Social expenditure	8	Budgeting and money management	20
Estimating your living expenses	8	Debt management	20
Budgeting	8	Money-saving websites	21
Budget planner	10	General student information	22
4. Student information	12		
Council Tax	12		
National minimum wage	13		
National Insurance	13		
Income Tax repayment	13		
5. Student health and well-being	14		
What type of support is available?	14		
6. National Health Service (NHS)	14		
A guide to the NHS	14		
How do I access the NHS?	14		
What does NHS registration entitle you to?	16		
What will you need to pay for?	16		

Please note

We cannot monitor the contents of the websites detailed in this booklet, so please take care with any advice or information given, particularly where it does not come from a recognised organisation or profession.

While every effort has been made to ensure that the information given in this booklet is correct and up to date, the Student Finance & Financial Support Team of the University of Greenwich's Office of Student Affairs cannot accept any legal responsibility for its accuracy or completeness.



Welcome

Studying overseas can be challenging because of cultural differences and language barriers, but it can also be deeply rewarding. Managing your money as a student is never easy and can be more difficult when you are studying in another country. Organising your finances can seem a daunting prospect, and we understand that going to university is a big financial commitment.

This booklet has been produced by the Student Finance & Financial Support Team of the Office of Student Affairs, and it explores the financial considerations for international students. It also includes general money management guidance and financial awareness hints and tips.

If you are a student, we are here to help. We provide a range of free information and advice through our Student Centres, as well as one-to-one drop-in sessions for students who want more-in-depth, confidential assistance.

Avery Hill Campus
Tel: 020 8331 9585

Greenwich Campus
Tel: 020 8331 8553

Medway Campus
Tel: 020 8331 9735

We sincerely hope that you will enjoy your time at the University of Greenwich untroubled by financial anxiety, but, if problems arise, remember we can help you.

**Student Finance & Financial
Support Team**

1. Money matters on arrival

Finance in the first few weeks

On arrival in the UK, it is advisable to have cash, traveller's cheques and, if possible, a debit card to cover you for the first few weeks in the country. This will help you to pay for any unexpected costs and travel expenses and help you while you set up a bank account in the UK. It is also good to have some cash when you first arrive to pay for expenses like travelling on a bus. Traveller's cheques are the safest way to carry large amounts of money and, if lost or stolen, can be replaced. They can be exchanged at banks, hotels, foreign exchange bureaux and American Express travel service locations. They are also accepted at a wide variety of shops and restaurants. If you use traveller's cheques, you will be required to provide additional forms of identification, such as a passport or driving licence, for verification.

How much money should you bring with you?

This depends on how long you will have to wait until you can access a bank account. You can estimate expected costs incurred by calculating your travel expenses, the money you need for food and drinks, and possibly for a visit to the local supermarket to stock up on essentials.

Please do not carry large amounts of money with you.

2. Opening a bank account

UK bank accounts

When studying in another country you may want to open a bank account with a local bank or building society. A bank account is the easiest and most common way to manage your finances while in the UK. Also, if you plan to stay in the UK for any length of time, you can avoid paying international transaction charges.

You can open an account at several banks and building societies in the UK. You will need to ensure that you have the necessary documentation to do this. Banks and building societies can be found in most high streets in cities and towns. Opening hours are usually between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday, and sometimes on Saturday mornings.

What type of account can you get?

Most banks and building societies will allow you to open a general bank account. This type of account is referred to as a 'current account'; you can access, deposit and withdraw money at any time, depending on your cash flow.

Bank account hints and tips

Once you have been issued with a current account, you should consider registering for online banking. Using a secure website operated by the bank, you'll be able to access your account, make payments and move money.

You may also be issued with a cheque book. Cheques can take three to five working days to clear your account, and that is only if the payee pays the cheque

into his or her own account immediately. Monitor your account frequently to ensure that the funds are available until the cheque clears; never spend the funds set aside to cover cheque payments.

If you get to a point where you need additional funds, do not allow yourself to go overdrawn without an authorised overdraft. Banks can charge large penalty fees for going overdrawn without authorisation. Monitor your account and try not to go overdrawn; try to ensure you keep within your budget.

What documents do I need to open a bank account?

To open a bank account in the UK, you will be required to provide the following documentation:

1. Your passport or UK driving licence
2. A letter from the University of Greenwich confirming the details of your UK study
3. Evidence of your current address in the UK, e.g. your tenancy agreement, student accommodation contract or letter from your university or college confirming your address

In addition, some banks may require proof of your address in your home country.

The process of opening a bank account can take around two weeks depending on the bank. The British Bankers' Association produces a guide for international students on opening a bank account; this can be found at www.bba.org.uk/customer/banking-abroad.



It is worth remembering that to extend your student visa in the UK you will need to show a specific amount of money in a bank account in your name. If you have a UK bank account, you will be able to obtain bank statements conveniently and quickly.

Debit cards

When you open a current account you will be issued with a debit card, and this is linked directly to your account. You can use the card to buy goods or withdraw cash, and the amount is taken from your account right away. Some shops offer a 'cashback' service where you can request cash from your account instead of using a cash machine. When using your debit card, you will usually need to enter your personal identification number (PIN) in an electronic hand-held device, though in some cases you may have to sign instead. It is very important that you protect your PIN and keep it safe to prevent fraud.

Please note that you should always read the terms and conditions of a contract before signing any agreement relating to financial products.

3. Managing your money

Living expenses

Outlined below is a guide to expected living expenses in the UK. This will help you to establish a budget and work out whether you have enough money to pay for living costs. Remember, this is a guide only, and you should amend the list to reflect your personal lifestyle.

Food

Your food costs will depend on your taste and dietary needs but will account for a significant part of your budget. The cheapest place to do your weekly food shopping is in a supermarket. You can save money by buying in bulk, buying items that are on special offer, buying products labelled under the supermarket's own brand and by writing a list and sticking to it. You can also make your own packed lunches and take hot drinks to your university or college. You can expect to pay £25–£40 a week for food.

Accommodation

Accommodation in halls of residence can sometimes be the cheapest option, but demand for places is high. You should expect to pay 90–£160 per week, depending on which campus you wish to live on or near. This cost often includes utility bills and Internet access. By living on campus you should see a substantial cost saving on your travel expenses. Alternatively, you can rent a room in private accommodation. The price varies depending on the quality of the accommodation and the location, but you can expect to pay £70–£150 a week.



Mobile phone

The cost of mobiles varies depending on the provider and tariff you are on. You can purchase a pay-as-you-go contract, which enables you to control the amount of money you are spending. If you require a fixed contract, expect to pay from around £15 a month, depending on the network provider.

Fixed contracts often offer better deals in relation to texting and calling. Decide on the contract that best suits you. If you prefer to make calls, consider a contract offering free minutes.

If you are calling your home country to speak to your family, consider setting up what is called a Skype account. This is way of making free calls internationally via the Web. If you have a laptop or PC with a webcam and your family has one too, you can make face-to-face calls as long as your family has also set up a Skype account. You will need to purchase a headset so that you can hear the call. For more information about how Skype works and when charges apply, visit **www.skype.com**.

There are other providers who offer this type of service, so ensure you do your research and shop around. Although most offer some form of free connection, service providers have different formats and connection styles and so Skype may not be your best choice.

Internet

Internet costs vary depending on whether you are in halls of residence or in private accommodation. The Internet is sometimes included in the accommodation costs for your halls of residence; in private accommodation,

you can expect to pay £15–£30 a month. Don't forget that all our campus libraries offer free Internet access during opening hours.

Books

You should allow at least £300 a year to buy books for your programme. To keep costs to a minimum, look out for opportunities to buy these second-hand. Your School Office notice board is a good place to start; you can also look online, and both eBay and Amazon have great offers. Alternatively, use the free copies in our campus libraries.

Remember that you will have to pay for your own stationery and photocopying. Ask your friends to split the costs and share resources.

Bills

Utility bills are already included in halls of residence costs; however, if you live in private accommodation, you will need to budget for water, heating and electricity bills. The total for these can be anything from £10 per week, depending on the time of year. You will also have to pay for a TV licence, and, if you live in a house with non-students, you will need to pay Council Tax.

TV licence

Students with a TV are required by law to purchase a TV licence. Students living in shared houses with a shared tenancy agreement can usually use one licence to cover all the TV sets in the house. Students living in halls will need to have their own licence for each room, but they can apply for a refund for the time they are not in residence, i.e. during the holiday periods.

If you watch TV on your laptop, other computer or mobile, you still need a licence. For further information, visit www.tvlicensing.co.uk.

Travel expenses

The university's halls of residence are on or near its campuses, so most travel costs will be limited to your personal needs. You can purchase a 18+ Student Oyster photocard for use on London trains, underground and buses, and on the Docklands Light Railway. If you travel regularly on public transport, it will be cheaper to buy a travel card rather than single tickets. Transport for London offers the 18+ Student Oyster photocard, which gives a 30% discount to full-time students over the age of 18.

For further information, including how to apply for an Oyster card, visit <https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk/oyster> and follow the online instructions.

Social expenditure

You need to budget for your social expenditure. There are lots of ways you can save money, such as applying for an 'NUS Extra' discount card. This is offered by the National Union of Students and gives you money off products and services at cinemas, high street stores and restaurants. For more information, see the list of useful websites in Section 11.

Estimating your living expenses

The table below is an example of a completed budget planner that estimates the average costs for accommodation and living expenses. The figures quoted in this table are a guide only: your budget

will depend on your accommodation and spending habits.

Additional costs

Students need to take into account other costs such as:

Equipment at the start of the programme (if applicable)	£250
Books throughout the year	£300
Clothes throughout the year	£350
Incidental expenditure (including flights)	£1,000
Total cost per year	£1,900

Budgeting

It is a good idea to plan a realistic budget. By doing so, you will be able to identify any unnecessary expenses and find ways to save money. You must first decide the period of time covered by your budget: some students, especially those living in halls of residence and planning to return home during the holidays, may budget for term-times only; others will remain in the UK throughout the year and will budget for the whole academic year.

A simple way to budget is to take your total income over a set period of time and divide this by the relevant number of weeks or months. For example, £9,000 divided by 34 weeks (term-time only) equals £1,058 per month, or £9,000 divided by 12 months (1 year) equals £750 per month.

Why should you budget?

It will help you:

- See how much money you have coming in (income)
- See how much money you have going out (expenditure)
- See how much money you have left
- Plan for future spending.

Income

Firstly, you will need to establish the monthly income you are receiving from student loans, maintenance grants, bursaries and scholarships or part-time work. Check your payslips/bank statements to get an accurate figure for how much you are earning per month.

Expenditure

Priority items

First work out the cost of your fixed and essential outgoings, such as rent and household bills. Then list all other outgoings, such as food, clothes, entertainment and travel costs.

Luxury items

Estimate how much you spend on luxury items such as magazines, DVDs and socialising with friends.

Unexpected/occasional costs

You may also have to pay for unexpected costs, such as household repairs and visits to the dentist or optician. You may also have occasional costs, such as Christmas and birthday presents.

Balance

Work out your total income for a month, and then take away the expenditure to work out whether you have any spare money or whether you have overspent.

INCOME – EXPENDITURE = BALANCE.

Here is what we recommend, depending on whether you have a shortfall or surplus:

My expenditure is higher than my income (shortfall)

If your calculations identify a shortfall, it is time to think about where that shortfall can be made up. You should consider booking an appointment with a Money Doctor, who will help prioritise your spending and identify areas where savings might be made. He or she will also discuss the importance of paying your essential household bills first and get you to think about reducing your outgoings.

We can help you to shop around and find cheaper alternatives for essential bills such as gas, electric and mobile phone

Weekly expenses	£	Monthly expenses	£
Food	£50	Food	£200
Travel	£15	Travel	£60
Study materials	£5	Study materials	£20
Entertainment	£40	Entertainment	£160
Utilities (gas, electricity, telephone)	£30	Utilities (gas, electricity, telephone)	£120
Other expenses	£30	Other expenses	£120
Weekly total	£170	Monthly total	£680
Total of academic year (40 weeks)	£6,800	Total of academic year (40 weeks)	£6,800
Rent		Rent	
40 weeks	£4,000	40 weeks	£4,000
(term-time only at £100 per week)		(term-time only at £100 per week)	
Yearly expenditure	£10,800	Yearly expenditure	£10,800

costs. We may also be able to improve your income through additional benefits and Council Tax exemptions, and by assessing your eligibility for additional financial support.

My income is higher than my expenditure (surplus)

If you have money left over, speak to a Money Doctor, who will be able to provide advice on saving the spare cash for a rainy day or putting it into the best high-interest savings account.

It is always a good idea to keep track of your income and expenditure to ensure your budget is accurate and you can maintain your spending. We recommend you review your budget on a regular basis, taking into account big changes in your income or expenditure.

Budget planner

You can use the following budget planner to estimate your own budget (alternatively, an interactive version, which will make the calculations for you, is available at www.gre.ac.uk/study/finance/money-doctors).

When completing the planner, remember to take the total income (from sponsors, savings, family and loans) over a set period of time and divide by the relevant months you will be at the university. If you have any problems, contact a Money Doctor at your local Student Centre.

Budget planner

Step 1 – Monthly income

Student Loan.....	£
Maintenance/Special Support Grant.....	£
Parents' Learning Allowance.....	£
Childcare Grant.....	£
Bursaries or Scholarships.....	£
Access to Learning Fund.....	£
Disability Living Allowance.....	£
NHS Bursary/Social Work Bursary.....	£
Teacher Training Bursary.....	£
Professional Career Development Loan.....	£
Child Tax Credits.....	£
Child Benefit.....	£
Housing Benefit.....	£
Welfare Benefit.....	£
Parental/partner contribution.....	£
Part-time work.....	£
Other:.....	£
Other:.....	£
Other:.....	£
Other:.....	£
Total income	BOX A £



Step 2 – Monthly outgoings (not including debt repayments)

Mortgage/rent.....	£
Gas.....	£
Electricity.....	£
Water.....	£
Council Tax.....	£
Food.....	£
TV licence.....	£
Life insurance.....	£
Childcare.....	£
Clothing.....	£
Laundry.....	£
Telephone/mobile.....	£
Internet.....	£
Car costs (insurance/tax/petrol).....	£
Books/stationery/photocopying.....	£
Papers/magazines.....	£
Leisure/sports.....	£
Socialising.....	£
Toiletries/personal care.....	£
Health and prescription costs.....	£
Miscellaneous.....	£
Other regular payments.....	£
Other:.....	£
Other:.....	£
Other:.....	£
Total outgoings	BOX B £

Step 4 – Priority debts/arrears

	Balance owed	Monthly repayments
Rent.....	£	£
Council Tax.....	£	£
Electricity.....	£	£
Gas.....	£	£
Water.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Other:.....	£	£
Total priority debts repayment	BOX D	£

Step 5

Monthly surplus/shortfall	BOX C	£
<i>minus</i>		
Total monthly priority debt repayment	BOX D	£
<i>equals</i>		
Disposable income available for the month	BOX E	£

Step 3

Total monthly income	BOX A	£
<i>minus</i>		
Total monthly outgoings	BOX B	£
<i>equals</i>		
Monthly surplus or shortfall	BOX C	£



4. Student information

Council Tax

Council Tax is a system of local taxation used throughout the UK. It is set by and payable to local councils as a financial contribution to the services they provide, such as rubbish collection, the police and the fire brigade. If you are a full-time student studying at a college or university in the UK for 21 hours or more a week for at least 24 weeks in the academic year, you are exempt from paying Council Tax. The rules are different if you live with someone who is not a full-time student, but your household could still get a discount.

University halls of residence are automatically exempt from Council Tax, which means that students who live there will not have to prove their student status to be exempt.

Not all students are eligible for Council Tax exemption or discount, including part-time students. Part-time students may, however, be able to claim Council Tax Benefit, which is awarded based on your income. For further information, visit www.direct.gov.uk/counciltax.

Applying for Council Tax exemption

If you are eligible to receive a student discount on your Council Tax, you will need an official letter from your college or university giving details about you and your programme. Check with your local Student Centre about how to obtain this. You must then send the letter to your local council in order to claim your exemption.

Please note that the requirements of local authorities vary; therefore, you are advised to contact your local council to find out what they need to process your Council Tax exemption discount.

National minimum wage

Am I being paid the national minimum wage?

The national minimum wage (NMW) is a minimum amount per hour that almost all workers in the UK are entitled to be paid. If you are being paid below the NMW, you can contact the Pay and Work Rights Helpline for confidential help on 0800 917 2368. There are different levels of NMW, depending on your age.

National minimum wage rates

There are three different national minimum wage rates that apply to students. These are usually updated in October each year.

For more information on the national minimum wage, visit www.direct.gov.uk/en/Employment/Employees/NationalMinimumWage.

Please note: it is illegal for your employer to pay you cash in hand without deducting Income Tax and National Insurance contributions from your wages.

National Insurance

Am I liable to pay Income Tax and National Insurance?

All students are liable to pay Income Tax and National Insurance contributions if they work in the UK unless they earn less than a certain amount per year (for Income Tax) or per week (for National Insurance).

What is a National Insurance number?

A National Insurance number is your own personal account number which records National Insurance contributions and the tax you pay. It also acts as a reference number for the whole social security system.

How do I get a National Insurance number?

Please call 0845 6000 643. Explain that you are an international student and that you are seeking work, or have found work, and need a National Insurance number. You will be asked a range of questions, and an appointment will be booked for you to visit a local job centre to collect your National Insurance number. You will be required to provide proof of your identity, proof of your address, a letter from your college or university and a letter to show that you are looking for work or have started work.

Income Tax repayment

What is an Income Tax repayment?

Students who are working have to pay Income Tax and National Insurance contributions if they are earning over a certain amount. An Income Tax repayment is a refund of tax that you have overpaid.

How will I receive my repayment?

If you have paid too much Income Tax (for example, through your job or previous work), HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) will send you a repayment. You will get the repayment either by cheque in the post, by bank transfer or through your wages. If you feel that you are due a refund, you may need to contact them directly.

Please note that, if you are employed on a casual, temporary or part-time basis, your employer must by law:

- Deduct Income Tax and National Insurance contributions from your wages
- Give you payslips
- Give you a P45 form when you leave
- Give you a P60 tax summary at the end of each tax year, if you still work for the employer.

If you have not been provided with these documents, you should contact HMRC immediately.

5. Student health and well-being

What type of support is available?

The Welfare & Student Support Team is a group of professionally trained and experienced counsellors who are able to offer the following services:

- Confidential counselling for any problem
- Crisis support
- Stress management and relaxation techniques
- Exam anxiety, time management and study skills
- Nightline (term-time only) – a confidential, out-of-hours telephone advice and support service
- Group work
- Referrals to external services when appropriate.

The Welfare & Student Support Team can be contacted through the Student Centre. Alternatively, visit www.gre.ac.uk/students/counselling.

6. National Health Service (NHS)

A guide to the NHS

The NHS can seem very complicated if you have never had to use the system before.

To be eligible for assistance from the NHS, a student must be one of the following:

- An EU student
- A non-EU student on a programme lasting more than six months
- A non-EU student from a country with a reciprocal arrangement with the UK.

How do I access the NHS?

To receive NHS treatment, you must register with a doctor; please note, however, that to register at a medical centre you must live within its catchment area. Alternatively, many universities and colleges have their own campus medical centres; the University of Greenwich's is at Avery Hill. For further information on registering with a doctor, visit www.nhs.uk/servicedirectories/pages/serviceresearch.aspx. To find out more about the university's medical services, visit www.gre.ac.uk/students/wss/health.

When you go to register with a doctor you will need to produce documentation to prove your identity and address. Documents may include - your passport, proof of address and your student ID card or other documents. We recommend that you check with the surgery which documents they require prior to your appointment. Once you have registered, you will be sent an NHS card, though this can sometimes take several





months to arrive. This confirms that you are now eligible for NHS treatment. You should keep the card in a safe place and always take it with you when you visit the dentist, doctor's surgery or hospital.

Trying to find a doctor when you are ill is an unnecessary pressure. It is best avoided, so please register at a medical centre as soon as possible.

What does NHS registration entitle you to?

- Free consultation with your doctor/ general practitioner
- Free hospital treatment at any NHS accident and emergency (A&E) centre
- Free hospital treatment if your doctor recommends it
- Free contraceptive services
- Free maternity care.

What will you need to pay for?

- Any medication the doctor prescribes for you
- Any dental treatment within the NHS scheme
- Eye tests, glasses or contact lenses
- Any forms or letters you may ask to be written or completed for you
- Certain vaccinations.

Medication prescribed by your doctor (also known as a prescription drug) currently costs £7.40 per item.

For further information, please contact the NHS directly (see www.nhs.uk for details of services); alternatively, contact your local Student Centre.

7. Supplementary income

Part-time work

Will I be able to work in the UK?

As an international student, you can apply for employment in the UK, providing you have the relevant visa stamp in your passport. The number of hours you are able to work depends upon whether you are employed during term-time or vacation periods.

How many hours can I work?

During term-time, international students may work up to 20 hours a week; however, the university does not encourage students to work more than 16 hours a week to allow enough time for studying. During vacation periods, international students can work up to 40 hours per week on a full-time basis, but you should not apply for permanent employment if you have not yet finished your programme of study. Both the Guidance and Employability Team and International Student Advice Service (see below and Section 8 respectively) can provide further information.

It is very important to establish your right to work during your studies and the conditions you must follow.

Where can I find part-time work?

Part-time job vacancies to work within the university, and externally for local businesses, are advertised through the university's JobShop, which is part of the Guidance & Employability Team (GET). The JobShop provides advice and support on where to look for work, how to apply (CVs, application forms) and the interview process (interview techniques);

international students can also pick up tips and skills that can be used while working in the UK.

As an international student, you have already demonstrated flexibility and adaptability – two useful employability skills; the JobShop may help you to identify more. The salary/wage for part-time work depends on the location, job, company and industry; however, you are not likely to earn a substantial sum.

For more information on part-time employment in the UK, visit GET at your local Student Centre or e-mail jobshop@gre.ac.uk.

Bursaries and scholarships

The University of Greenwich provides a number of bursaries and scholarships. A full list can be found at www.gre.ac.uk/students/finance. Alternatively, for more information, visit your local Student Centre.

Federal student aid

What type of financial assistance is available for American students?

Financial assistance is available to American students studying at an overseas university through the US Government's Department for Education.

The longstanding Federal Family Education Loan Program was discontinued in 2010; loans will instead be issued through the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program. The University of Greenwich participates in this programme (our OPE ID number is 03619300) and will complete the required administration process, including an assessment of the applicant's eligibility. If



you are intending on applying for US FSA, you must tell us as soon as possible via the details below.

For further information on the process of federal student aid, visit www.gre.ac.uk/students/finance or e-mail fab@gre.ac.uk.

8. International Student Advice Service (ISAS)

How can ISAS help me?

ISAS, part of the University of Greenwich, provides help and advice on immigration issues and personal and welfare matters that impact on international students. The service is regulated by the Office of the Immigration Services Commissioner, the UK regulator of the immigration advice industry.

Our international advisers provide a free and confidential service on all three campuses and can be contacted through your local Student Centre. The Student Centre also has student information and advice officers on hand to provide general guidance on immigration issues.

For more information on ISAS and Student Centre support, visit www.gre.ac.uk/current-students/support/isas.

9. Financial hardship

Where do I go if I find myself in financial difficulty?

International students can sometimes find themselves in financial difficulty; for instance, their sponsor may not be able to continue contributing towards the costs of their studies. If you find yourself in financial difficulty and are unable to pay your remaining tuition fees due to unforeseen circumstances, please contact the Student Finance & Financial Support Team immediately to speak to a finance manager.

It is important you do this: if you are in debt to the university, you will not be able to extend your student visa as we will be unable to supply the essential documentation required to support your application.

10. Money Doctors

The University of Greenwich has joined Money Doctors, a nationwide initiative that promotes good money management and aims to help students make better-informed financial decisions. This was established by the Money Advice Service, an independent financial organisation responsible for helping consumers to understand and manage their finances.

How can Money Doctors help me?

We are able to offer advice on the following:

- Budgeting tools
- Debt management
- Credit scores
- Important money matters when you arrive
- Opening a bank account
- General financial matters (through advice and information sessions)
- Funding postgraduate study
- Locating additional support (through EGAS)
- NHS services
- US federal loans
- Funds, bursaries and scholarships
- Council Tax
- Part-time work
- National Insurance numbers
- The national minimum wage
- Financial hardship
- Finding other services.

How do I contact a Money Doctor?

A Money Doctor is based on each campus:

Avery Hill Campus
Tel: 020 8331 9585

Greenwich Campus
Tel: 020 8331 8553

Medway Campus
Tel: 020 8331 9735

Students can book an appointment online via the student portal or by e-mailing moneydoctors@gre.ac.uk.

11. Useful websites

EU and international students

Student Finance Services European Team

The team is able to offer advice to EU students applying for student finance in the UK.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk/en/EducationAndLearning/

United Kingdom Council for International Student Affairs (UKCISA)

UKCISA is an independent, not-for-profit organisation that provides free advice and information to international students.

Website: www.ukcisa.org.uk

The UK Border Agency

The UK border agency provides advice on matters relating to immigration, permission to stay, work permits, citizenship and asylum.

Website: www.ukvisas.gov.uk

British Council

The British Council is the UK body for international cultural relations.

Website: www.britishcouncil.org

Funding for postgraduate students

Education Grants Advisory Service

Website: www.family-action.org.uk/section.aspx?id=1924

Budgeting and money management

Brightside UNIAID

This charity helps young people overcome financial hurdles to higher education, providing practical financial coping skills and offering independent advice and direct support to students in hardship.

Website: www.brightsideuniaid.org

Professional and Career Development Loan

You can apply for this loan, which allows you to borrow money and pay no interest while you study.

Website: www.direct.gov.uk then type 'Professional and Career Development Loan' into the search engine.

Prospects

This is the UK's official graduate careers website.

Website: www.prospects.ac.uk

Postgraduate Studentships

This website provides information on postgraduate programmes and funding in the UK.

Website:

www.postgraduatestudentships.co.uk

Credit Action

This website is committed to helping people manage their money better through offering a range of resources, tools and training.

Website: www.creditaction.org.uk

The Money Advice Service

This website has been established by the Financial Services Authority to help the public, including students, think about their money. It provides impartial information and financial tools.

Website: <http://yourmoney.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/>

Debt management

Money Advice Trust

An organisation which aims to increase the quality and availability of free and independent money advice in the UK.

Website: www.infohub.moneyadvice.trust.org

National Debtline

This service provides free, confidential advice on how to deal with debt problems.

Website: www.nationaldebtline.co.uk

Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

The CAB offers free, confidential, impartial and independent advice on debt, consumer issues, benefits, housing, legal matters, employment and immigration.

Website:

www.adviceguide.org.uk/index.htm



Consumer Credit Counselling Service

This service provides free, confidential advice on how to deal with debt problems.

Website: www.cccs.co.uk

Money-saving websites

Money Saving Expert

A website dedicated to providing hints and tips on how to save money on everything.

Website: www.moneysavingexpert.com

My Voucher Codes

This website offers discount voucher codes, promotional codes and coupons for online stores.

Website: www.myvouchercode.co.uk

Freecycle

This website matches people who have things to get rid of with people who can use them so that fewer products are thrown away unnecessarily.

Website: www.freecycle.org

My Supermarket

This grocery shopping and comparison website enables you to compare prices and shop at four leading supermarkets.

Website: www.mysupermarket.co.uk

Deals Centre

This website offers online shopping deals, promotions, offers and discount vouchers on a range of products, including TVs, mobile phones, computers and electrical equipment.

Website: www.dealscentre.co.uk

Price Runner

This website compares thousands of products and millions of prices, saving you time and money.

Website: www.pricerunner.co.uk

Search Freebies

This website gives details of special offers, free samples, competitions, vouchers and other free products.

Website: www.searchfreebies.co.uk

General student information

National Union of Students (NUS)

The NUS is the national voice of students. The website is a useful source of information for students wishing to find out more about student life, news and events, campaigns, and how to apply for an NUS Extra discount card.

Website: www.nus.org.uk

HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC)

HMRC is primarily responsible for the collection of taxes and the payment of some forms of state support. The website contains all the information you need about tax, National Insurance and the national minimum wage.

Website: www.hmrc.gov.uk

TV licence

This website provides a range of information about TV licensing in the UK, including methods of payment and government policy.

Website: www.tvlicensing.co.uk

Transport for London

This website provides information on public transport in London and how to apply for a student travel card.

Website: <https://oyster.tfl.gov.uk>

National Health Service (NHS)

The NHS is the world's largest publicly funded health service. The website contains all the information you need about health care and it can help you find your local GP.

Website: www.nhs.uk

The British Bankers' Association (BBA)

BBA is the trade association that represents the banks operating in the UK.

Website: www.bba.org.uk

Office of Fair Trading (OFT)

The OFT is an independent organisation that promotes and protects consumer interests throughout the UK.

Website: www.oft.gov.uk



**Office of Student Affairs
University of Greenwich**

Greenwich Campus
Old Royal Naval College
Park Row
London SE10 9LS

Website: www.greenwich.ac.uk



**REGISTER FOR
PUBLICATIONS/
GREENWICH VIP**



www.gre.ac.uk/study



This document is
available in other
formats on request

University of Greenwich, a charity and company limited by guarantee, registered in England (reg. no. 986729).
Registered office: Old Royal Naval College, Park Row, Greenwich, London SE10 9LS

Every effort has been made to ensure that this publication is as accurate as possible.
However, the university reserves the right to amend without notice any information printed here.