# THE STUDENT BLOG

## STUDENT FINANCE AND BUDGETING!

CHOICES TOGETHER

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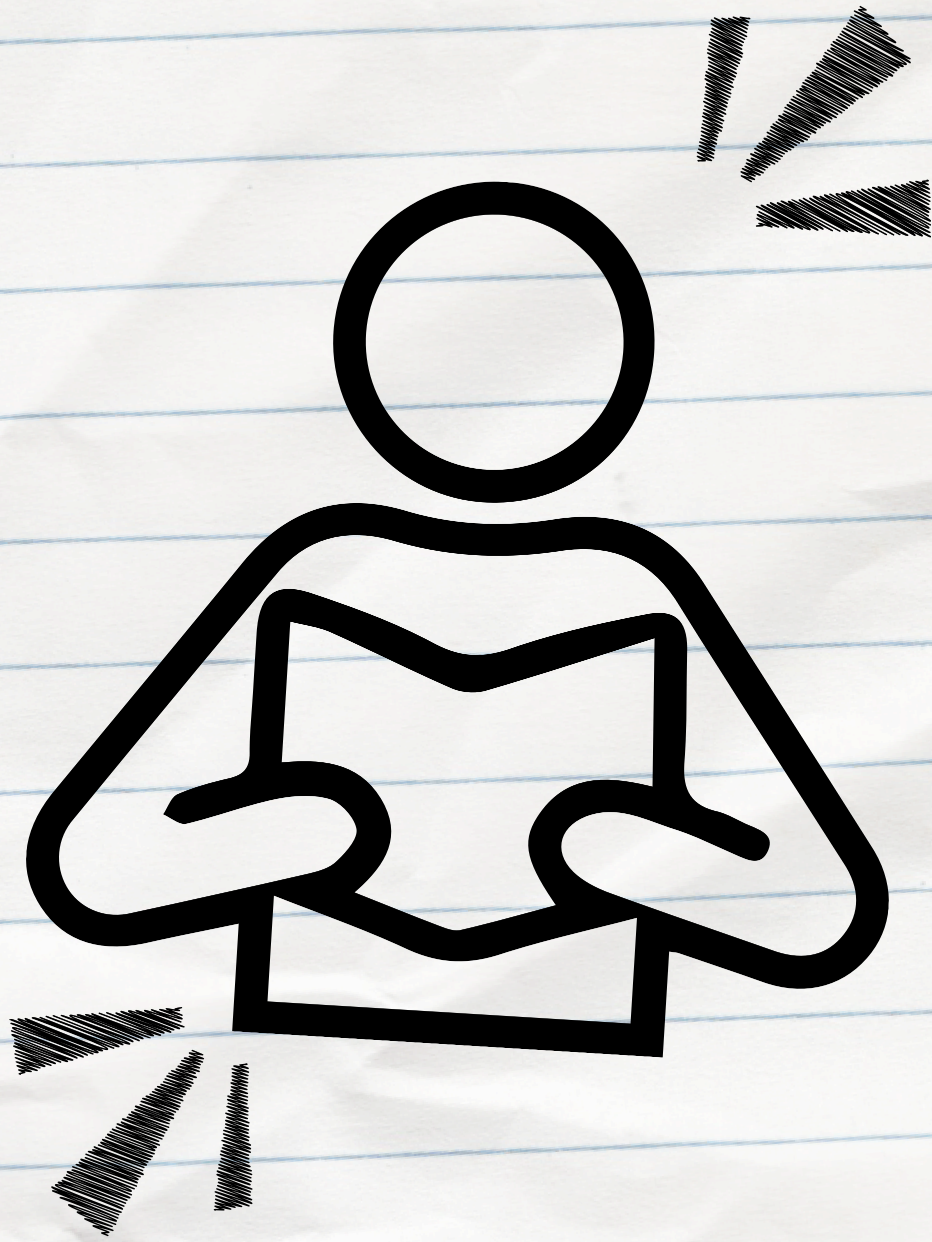
# MUNIRA

Teesside University



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|---|---|
| UNIVERSITY: | TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY |
| COURSE: | MSC MICROBIOLOGY |
| FAVOURITE SCHOOL SUBJECT: | BIOLOGY |
| HOBBY: | DRAWING, KNITTING, HIKING |

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# WHAT'S ONE THING YOU WISH YOU KNEW BEFORE APPLYING TO STUDENT FINANCE, AND DO YOU HAVE ANY TIPS FOR MAKING THE PROCESS EASIER?

While I did not apply for student loans or scholarships as an international student, my savings and student job help me through university. There are several funding options available to international and home students, but I found out later in my university preparation process what I could apply for.

I wish I knew that no amount of funding was too small because it goes a long way to offset some costs like food and transportation. Some options are not need-based, and I always thought they were.

There are also options that are advertised every semester for specific reasons, like those from financial institutions that support your studies. To make the application process easier, gathering information and starting earlier gives you a better chance at getting the funding you need. Also, speaking to the student finance team can be a great start for when you have questions.

# HOW DO YOU MAKE YOUR STUDENT LOAN LAST ACROSS THE YEAR, AND ARE THERE ANY OPPORTUNITIES TO INCREASE YOUR FINANCIAL INCOME AT UNI?

Budgeting and allocating funds towards specific monthly needs is how I manage my finances. I keep rent, transportation, food, or university fees in separate pots on my banking apps until I need them.

One way to increase your income at university is to get a job. Some people have two or more jobs that they use to finance different aspects of university life.

It is also important for those who have to finance their education on their own. There are student jobs available within the university that are advertised every now and then. I am currently a FutureMe and NERAP partnership associate, and I get paid monthly for any shifts taken.

# TELL US ONE MONEY-SAVING HABIT OR HACK THAT YOU COULDN'T LIVE WITHOUT!

My simple rule is to save the larger portion on every pay cheque and use the rest for everyday or weekly essentials.

For example, if I earn £55, £50 goes to my savings and £5.00 to my current account where it is more accessible.

# ARE THERE ANY OTHER WAYS TO SAVE MONEY, LIKE USING UNIDAYS, ETC?

A lot of stores and services offer student discounts like Unidays and Student Beans.

These are great options for food, clothing, gadgets, home, travel and so many other things where you will find all the discounted deals from your favourite shops.

Booking for services in advance is also a great way to save money because the amount paid on same day bookings are usually higher.

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## BLOG

TELL US IN THE COMMENTS WHAT TOPICS YOU'D LIKE OUR PARTNERSHIP ASSOCIATES TO COVER!

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