

# The Cost of Living in London

## Living Costs

Estimates vary as to how much students should budget for, and London, like other cities, can be as expensive as personal taste dictates.

Accommodation in international student halls provided by universities and colleges is the cheapest option, but demand for places is high. Rents in private properties depend on the quality of accommodation and the location: a flat in Zone 1 (central London) will cost a lot more than a shared house in Zone 3. You may find a room in a shared flat/house for around £400.00 per month, but the upper limit you could pay would depend on your budget and the location you want.

The following information estimates the average amounts of money students are likely to spend each week, including Christmas and Easter vacation but not including the long summer vacation. The estimates also include some essential expenditure at the start of your course, and a cash reserve for unexpected expenditure. You should not necessarily expect your own weekly budget to closely resemble any of the examples, although you should expect to spend at least as much overall.

**Remember:** There is a four-week break over Christmas and a four-week break over Easter. If you decide to go away, you will probably still have to pay for the accommodation.

## ? Weekly Expenses

Food	<b>£50.00</b>
Travel	<b>£15.00</b>
Study materials	<b>£30.00</b>
Entertainment	<b>£40.00</b>
Utilities (gas, electricity, telephone)	<b>£30.00</b>
Other expenses <sup>1</sup>	<b>£30.00</b>
<b>Weekly Total</b>	<b>£195.00</b>

Total of academic year (40 weeks) **£7,800.00**

## ? Rent

40 weeks at £100.00 **£4,000.00**

**Yearly Expenditure** **£11,800.00**

It has been estimated that students will have other expenditure as follows:

Equipment at start of course	£250.00
Books throughout academic year	£300.00
Clothes throughout the year	£350.00
Incidental expenditure <sup>2</sup>	£1,000.00
<b>TOTAL PER YEAR</b>	<b>£1,900.00</b>

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<sup>1</sup> Weekly incidental expenditure includes snacks, haircuts, postage, newspapers and magazines.

<sup>2</sup> Includes insurance, household appliances, TV licence, trips connected with studies or other trips).

### **Very Important: Unit Trips**

There will be at least one unit/field trip during the academic year. Depending on the destination of this trip and how long it is for, the price will greatly vary. It is not possible to know the destination of the trips before the course starts.

As a guide you can take the example of one of the Graduate School programmes:

Students of the MA in Housing and Urbanism make two trips. One is normally for four to five days to an European destination and the second is a three-week workshop to Mexico. Costs for both trips are like to come up to around £1,000.

Students following the MA in Environment and Energy make two trips which normally cost up to around £700.

During the last year other parts of the School have travelled to China, Norway, Morocco, Spain ...

### **Finally**

You will also need to budget for materials to build models etc. Although we have included £30 each week for study materials and £250 at the beginning of the course for equipment, the amount of money you spend will depend on the sort of project or research you are doing. Undergraduate students tend to build models constantly as part of the design course, and some of the materials might be expensive (you will receive full information about this from the Workshop when you arrive at the AA) whereas graduate students tend to do more theoretical work. This is true unless you are a DRL student: prototypes are becoming more expensive and last year each student spent an average of £500 on different materials and equipment. You should bear in mind these very important expenditures when budgeting for your studies.