

Ways you might get financial support at a university

- 1. Scholarships:** Many are available. Visit your school's financial aid office for suggestions.
- 2. Working:** Build your resume, but be careful to manage your time well so your job does not conflict with your schoolwork.
- 3. University hardship fund:** Often overlooked but can be worth exploring.
- 4. A student loan:** Complete the FAFSA to see how much you are eligible for in loans. You may also be able to apply for a loan at your bank or credit union.
- 5. Parents:** a typical source of help, but plan well and keep track of your costs.

Organizing your finances

Do:

- 1.** Plan in advance so that you have a realistic budget and the finances to support it.
- 2.** Make sure than you have a little extra money in case of emergencies.
- 3.** Apply for your student loan as early as possible.
- 4.** Keep track of your spending and get help as soon as you need it.
- 5.** Be aware of opportunities for earning money at your university.

Don't:

- 1.** Panic if you overspend in your first two terms: things will usually settle down.
- 2.** Lose track of your costs: you will need to know why things went wrong if they do.
- 3.** Sign up for courses that involve extra expenses without planning the cost first.
- 4.** Use your credit card without planning how you are going to pay the bill.
- 5.** Feel alone: Get help if you feel that your finances are going badly wrong.

Working to earn money

Pros:

1. You will have less stress if you are not constantly worrying about money.
2. You can pick up useful, marketable skills.
3. You might have more cash to spend on enjoying yourself at university.
4. You might feel more independent of your parents or other financial supporters.
5. You will leave the university with a lower level of debt.

Cons:

1. You will have to balance your work and study time.
2. It is difficult to have to work when you are tired from studying.
3. You might find that your hours interfere with finals or unexpected study commitments.
4. Working might impinge on your social life, leaving you feeling isolated.

Working to earn money

Do:

1. Find out about work opportunities near your university well before you need to work.
2. Consider all possibilities, including call center work and part time marketing work. Try to find a job with a flexible schedule.
3. Be strict with yourself about how much time you can spend working.
4. Make a realistic estimate of how much cash you need before you commit to a job.
5. Consider working full time for part of a vacation rather than part time all term.

Don't:

1. Ignore the job opportunities that might exist on your university campus.
2. Take the first job you see: search around for the best pay and hours that suit you.
3. Forget to balance your time to incorporate your paid work.

4. Let your spending get out of control just because you are earning money.

5. Assume that you will work throughout the year: keep checking your finances.

This content has been written by Lucinda Becker, author of [*How to Manage your Arts, Humanities and Social Science Degree.*](#)