

2015 Student Money Saving Guide

LowestRates.ca

Day-to-Day Spending



DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

Even if you've taken the time to get the big things right, like selecting low-cost housing, finding the cheapest transit pass and downloading killer budgeting and grocery apps, you can still crash your finances by letting your everyday expenses run wild. Stuff like cell phone bills, credit cards and books can cost you dearly if you aren't careful.

Here are some strategies to keep your day-to-day spending in check:

Cell Phones

Unless you are truly old school, you're one of millions of Canadian students who own a cell phone and use it pretty much everyday. And even though cell phones are nearly ubiquitous on campus, the plans that go with them don't seem to be getting any cheaper.

That's why it's important to take some time and think about how much you will use your phone. If you make a lot of calls, you will likely want a plan with more daytime minutes. If texting is your thing, an unlimited texting plan might be worth the cost. If you surf the web a lot, then a larger data plan probably makes sense. Once you've figured out your needs, shop around for the best plan and try to get the most bang for your student buck.

We've put together some of the best plans available to Canadian students right now from each of the major carriers. Check them out!

BACK TO SCHOOL

Student Cell Phone Plans

	Rogers	Telus	Bell	Fido	Koodo	Virgin	WIND Mobile	Mobilicity
Plan Name	Light Talk, Text & Data	Telus Voice 35	Voice Promo 35	Data, Text & Talk Smart Plan	Lightweight	Your Talk, Your Data	Smartphone Plan	Unlimited Plus
Day Mins	200 Canada wide minutes	150 Local Minutes	200 Local Minutes	200 Local Minutes	300 Canada Wide Minutes	200 Canada Wide Minutes	Unlimited (Canada Wide)	Unlimited (Province Wide)
Evening/Wknds	Unlimited (Canada-wide After 6 PM)	Unlimited (Local) After (6 PM)	Unlimited (Local) After (6 PM)	Unlimited (Canada-wide After 5 PM)	Unlimited (Canada-wide After 5 PM)	Unlimited (Canada-wide After 5 PM)	Unlimited (Canada-wide)	Unlimited (Canada-wide)
Txt Msgs	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited (North America)
Call Display	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included
Voicemail	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included	Included
Data	200MB	Optional (150MB)	Optional (50MB)	300MB	100MB	100MB	2GB	Light Data (Social apps, IM chat, email)
Activation Fee	\$35	\$0 (SIM Card = \$10)	\$35 (\$25 credit limited offer)	\$35	\$35	\$35	\$0	\$0
Contract	Month to month or 2 year term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term	2 Year Term
Rate	\$50/month	\$35/m no data, \$50/m with data	\$35/m no data, \$42.50/m with data	\$33/month	\$28/month (Plus monthly tab charge \$0-15)	\$35/m (limited time offer)	\$35/month	\$35/m (plus \$5 Light Data)

DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

Credit Cards

Should you get a credit card while you're in school? Personal finance experts disagree on this question but we think it's probably a good idea. Credit cards have many benefits – not only are they convenient, they also help build your credit score and some even earn you points or cash back. A few credit card providers offer cards designed specifically for students, and you can compare them using online resources like [LowestRates.ca](#).

Scotiabank Scene VISA



The Scene VISA has no annual fee and allows you to earn points toward free movies and discounts at movie theatres.

Scotiabank L'earn VISA



An easy application process and an accelerated cash-back rewards program make this card an attractive option for students. There's no annual fee either!

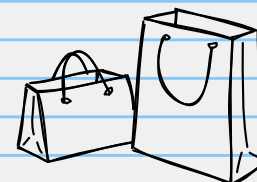
Studentawards MBNA Rewards MasterCard



Establish your credit rating and earn great rewards with the StudentAwards MBNA Rewards MasterCard® credit card. Earn 1 MBNA Rewards point for every \$1 in eligible purchases. There's no annual fee and no limit on the amount of rewards you can earn!

Once you select a credit card that suits your needs, keep these tips in mind to help manage your card appropriately:

- Always pay more than the minimum monthly payment -- if possible, pay the full balance every month
- Remember the monthly due date of your card, and make a payment on or before this date to avoid interest penalties
- Go out of your way to avoid extra fees on services like cash advances or withdrawing money at ATMs
- Apply for one or two credit cards only so that you can track your balances easily and avoid overspending
- Always review your statements -- mistakes happen!



Day Spending

SPECIAL OFFER

FREE \$25 gift card upon approval!*

Check out our credit card section for more details.

*Available on select credit cards

LowestRates.ca
3 days ago

Hey @MasterCardCA why is mastercard a great card for students? Can they earn points?

MasterCardCA
3 days ago

@LowestRates_ca MasterCard issuers offer a range of products! Students should talk to an issuer to learn what might be right for them.

LowestRates.ca
3 days ago

@MasterCardCA okay awesome, thanks for the tip!

ScotiabankNews
3 days ago

@LowestRates_ca #students earn FREE movies on everyday purchases with the @Scotiabank SCENE VISA! More on <http://scotiabank.com>

LowestRates.ca
6 minutes ago

@ScotiabankNews awesome perks, thanks for sharing with us!

DAY-TO-DAY SPENDING

Books

As a student you'll spend way more on books than you ever thought possible. Keep your book expenses down with these tips:

- Ask before you buy. Call or email your professors to gauge if you will really need those "required" resources, and contact friends that may have taken the class a semester before you or in another year.
- Check used bookstores on campus, and see if there is a used book marketplace online for students at your school. Also try Facebook, Kijiji and Craigslist.
- If you have an eReader or tablet, try looking for an eBook version of your textbook on Coursesmart.com or rent with Kindle Textbook Rental
- If you seldom use a textbook and only require it for occasional reference, try finding it at the library... for free!

Other Day-To-Day Spending Tips

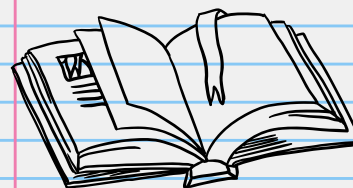
Even the thriftiest students have to shop sometimes. Get the most bang for your student buck with these tips.

Buy Used. From cars to furniture to clothes, buying used is a great way to save money.

Get On Mailing Lists. If you are going to buy new, subscribe to your favourite retailers' mailing lists to get special discounts.

Get an SPC Card. Student price cards are accepted by a huge and growing number of merchants. Display your card and you'll be eligible to receive discounts of 10 to 20 percent at participating businesses. Check out the full list of stores here: <http://www.spccard.ca/store-Locator-Full.aspx>

Canvas Family and Friends. You'd be surprised how much extra stuff most people have lying around, from kitchenware to furniture to electronics. You're a student – why not live like one, with a generous selection of hand-me-downs.



Day-to-Day Spending



Thanks To Our Sponsors:

LowestRates.ca

INSURANCE
HUNTER.CA
3 QUOTES • 3 MINUTES

yconic.

BON VOYAGE!

Good Luck This Year!

We hope this year's *Student Money Saving Guide* helps you get through the year with a little more money in your pocket and a little less stress. Be sure to take advantage of the special offers in the guide -- they can definitely save you some cash!

Remember that when it comes to saving money it's important to be creative, stay disciplined, and have a plan -- the habits that allow you to excel academically can help you with your finances too!

