

2015 Student Money Saving Guide

LowestRates.ca



Money Saving Guide For University and College Students



Welcome Students!

At [LowestRates.ca](#), we know school is expensive. That's why every September we release our annual *Student Money Saving Guide* to help students keep their finances -- and their futures -- looking good.

From tracking expenses to choosing a cellphone plan to picking the best financial apps, our guide offers tips and tools that, taken together, help save students thousands of dollars over the course of a single school year.

This year's updated guide is divided into six parts: scholarships and bursaries, housing, transportation, food, budgeting, and day-to-day spending. In 2015 we're also including 10 featured schools where we breakdown and compare the costs associated with attending each institution.

Our featured schools span from coast to coast and include Dalhousie University, McGill University, Queen's University, Humber College, the University of Toronto, York University, the University of Western Ontario, Southern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Calgary, and the University of British Columbia.

Read on to start a crash course in Money Management 101!

Scholarships and Bursaries

Food

Housing

Budgeting

Transportation

Day-to-Day Spending



SCHOLARSHIPS & BURSARIES

So you're going to college or university -- congratulations! Post-secondary education is a great investment in your future, even if the upfront costs are a bit daunting. Why not lighten the financial burden with a scholarship or bursary? There's a huge amount of financial aid out there if you know where to look.

Aid from Your School

A good place to start your student aid search is at the college or university you're attending or want to attend. Most schools have a student aid section on their website, while scholarships are often featured in a separate awards section.

Aid from the Federal and Provincial Government

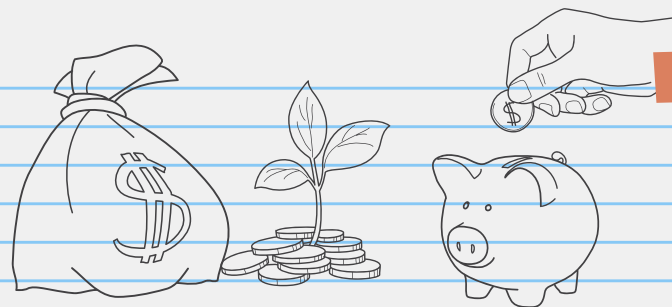
In Canada both the Federal and Provincial governments fund post-secondary student aid on a massive scale. While your school might have information on government-provided student aid, you can also go to these websites directly:



The Service Canada website has tons of great resources to help you fund your education.



With a comprehensive list of government-funded student aid sources, plus useful tools like a *Student Financial Assistance Estimator* to help you gauge your annual loan and grant amounts, CanLearn's site will help you find the funding you need.



Scholarship & Bursaries

Aid from Businesses, Charities and Foundations

Did you know that there are **thousands of scholarships and bursaries** provided by businesses, charities and foundations across Canada? Why not apply for some of them, if not this year, then next?

If you don't know where to start, don't worry -- there are actually some really cool websites out there that let you sort through private sources of student aid and identify the scholarships, bursaries and grants that are a good fit for you. Some even help you along in the application process with tools like deadline trackers and dashboards to keep you organized and focused on the right priorities.

These are two sites that many students say they find really helpful:



This site has a free, searchable scholarship and bursary database with some fantastic tools to find student aid.



yconic offers comprehensive scholarship and bursary resources, member-exclusive opportunities, and really useful forums for students to share ideas and learn about topics that are important to them.

Aid From Other Unlikely Places

Student aid can come from some places that might surprise you. Here are four:

Your parents' employers. The company your parents work for might offer student aid to the children of employees. It doesn't hurt to ask!

Your employer. Have a full-time or part-time job? Your employer might have a program to help you go back to school!

Guilds or Professional Organizations. If you want to study in a certain field, the professional organizations associated with it might offer scholarships and bursaries to enterprising young students.

Clubs, Religious Organizations and Community Groups. Think churches, temples, rotary clubs, etc.



LowestRates_ca
3 days ago

Hey @LindseyThurston what budgeting advice would you give students going back to school this fall?



LindseyThurston
3 days ago

@LowestRates_ca Apply for scholarships, work part-time, and plan for how you'll pay off your loans after school ahead of time!



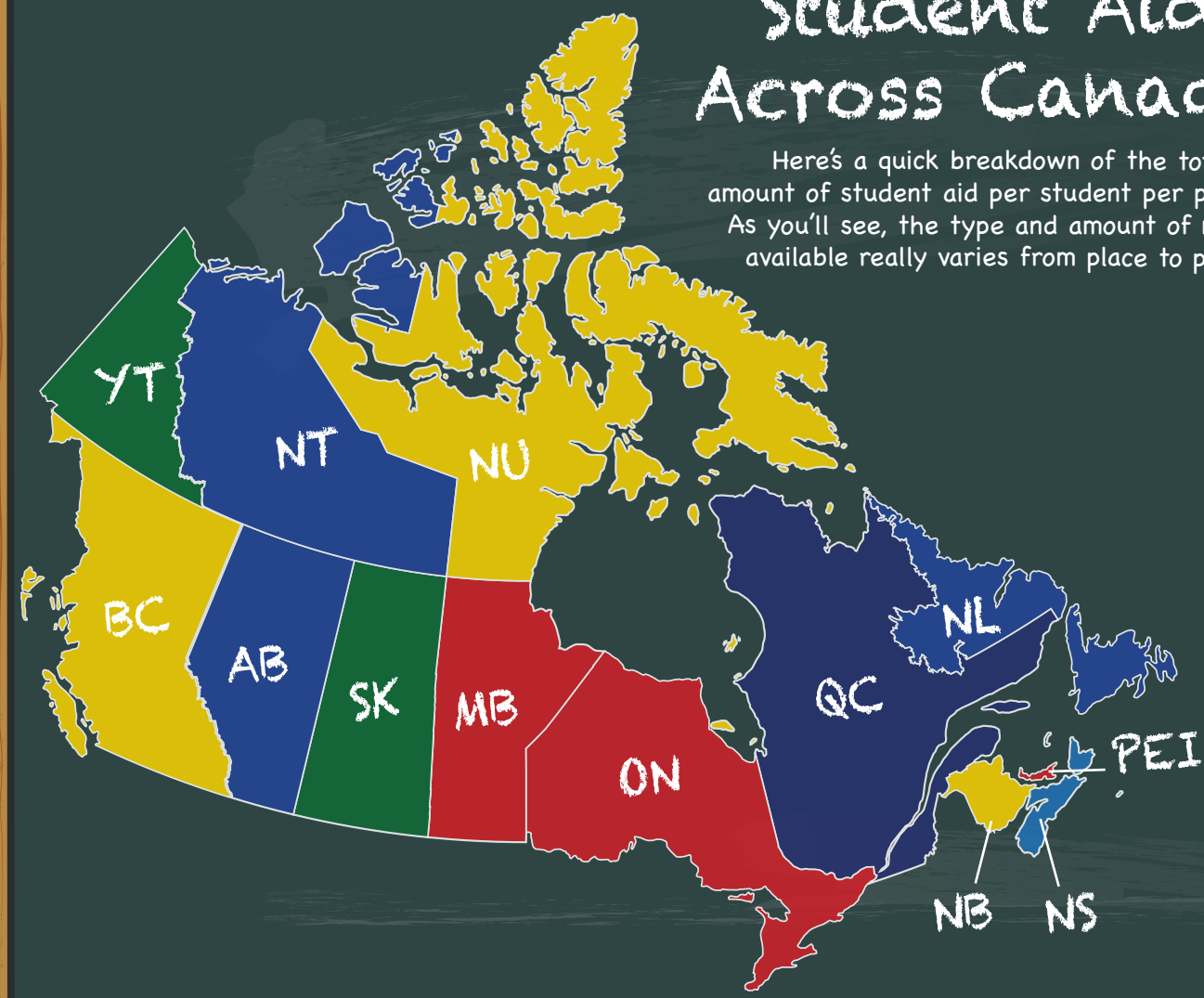
LowestRates_ca
14 minutes ago

@LindseyThurston Great advice for students!

Personal
Finance
Guru

Student Aid Across Canada

Here's a quick breakdown of the total amount of student aid per student per province. As you'll see, the type and amount of money available really varies from place to place!



	ON	QB	NL	NB	PEI	NS
	Ontario	Québec	Newfoundland and Labrador	New Brunswick	Prince Edward Island	Nova Scotia
Total Student Aid:	\$9044.48	\$ 7124.21	\$ 9718.53	\$ 10,872.03	\$ 10,872.03	\$ 9856.96
Non-Repayable Student Aid:	\$ 2730.13	\$ 3581.42	\$ 3676.07	\$ 1530.40	\$ 2157.39	\$ 1758.00
% Non-Repayable:	30%	50%	38%	15%	20%	18%

	YT	NT	NU	YT	AB	SK	MB
	Yukon	Northwest Territories	Nunavut	British Columbia	Alberta	Saskatchewan	Manitoba
Total Student Aid:	\$ 10,494.15	\$ 10,494.15	\$ 10,494.15	\$ 9559.33	\$ 11,393.83	\$ 10,120.04	\$ 9739.88
Non-Repayable Student Aid:	\$ 3563.65	\$ 3563.65	\$ 3563.65	\$ 2122.01	\$ 3417.65	\$ 4382.35	\$ 4980.41
% Non-Repayable:	34%	34%	34%	22%	30%	43%	51%

(*State of Student Aid Survey. ** Total Average Student Aid Per Recipient *** Total Aid Includes Loans, Grants and Remissions)

HOUSING

Along with tuition, housing is one of the biggest expenses students face as they get a post-secondary education. While the cost of rent varies from city to city, no matter where you go to school it's going to take up a *big* part of your budget.

Here are some tips to help you make housing as affordable and painless as possible.

Live off campus and in non-premium areas

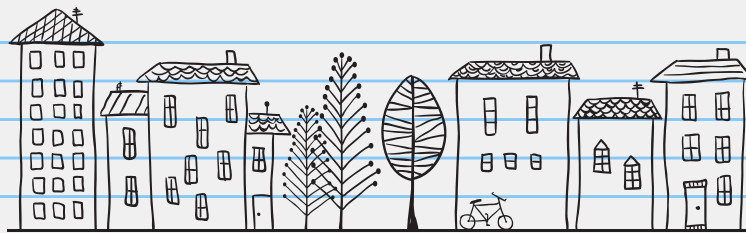
The years when you're a student are not the time to splurge on fancy, well-located digs. Choosing to live in a non-premium area can save you hundreds of dollars a month, which, when you're a student, is a big deal! Just make sure it's safe!

Split Rental Costs w/ Roommates

One tried and tested way to reduce your housing costs is by sharing a rental with other students. By renting a house or a large condo, many students find they can cut their monthly rent by 50% or more!

Get Renter's Insurance

Renter's insurance is rarely (if ever) on student minds -- that is, until they need it! A good renter's policy will cover the cost of any belongings that are lost, stolen, or damaged during the time that you live in your rented apartment or house. Proper renter's coverage will also protect you from liability in the event someone gets hurt in your home.



Housing Costs Comparison

Expect to pay a significant amount of money on housing no matter where you choose to go to school. Here's a quick comparison of the average annual housing costs at some of the most popular schools in Canada.

Housing

Transportation

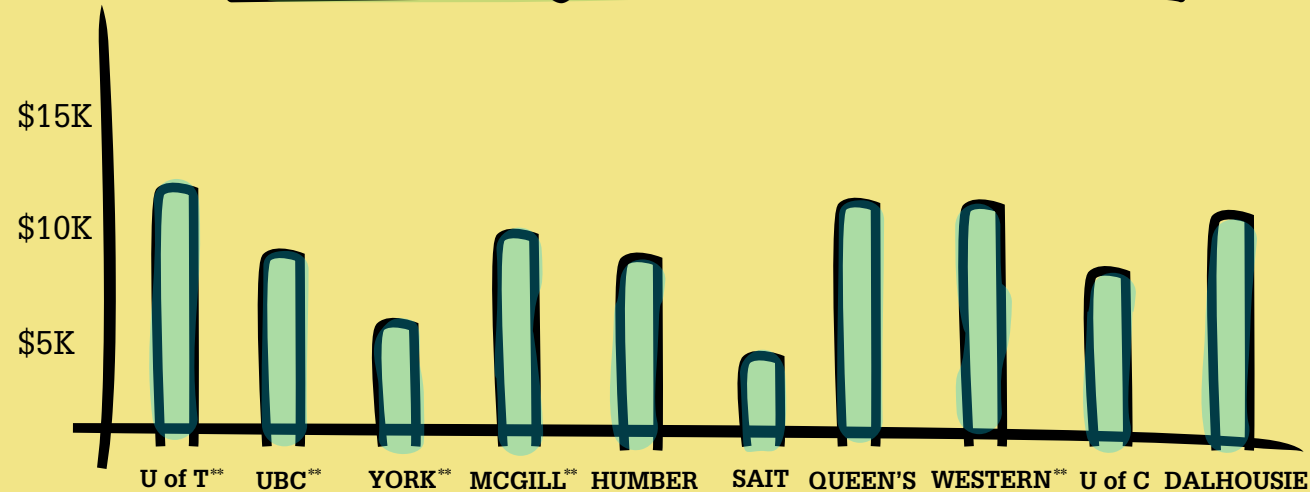
Food

Budgeting

Day Spending



Average Residence Costs*



(* weighted average cost of all residences on campus) (** indicates mandatory meal plan included in average cost)

Sources: University housing and residence services

U of T:	\$12,081.13
UBC:	\$8,317.13
York:	\$6,218.55
McGill:	\$9,976.13
Humber:	\$8,952.59
SAIT:	\$4,048.00
Queen's:	\$11,352.55
Western:	\$11,340.19
U of C:	\$8,463.89
Dalhousie:	\$6,684.45

Student Housing Costs Across Canada



University of British Columbia

Average cost of residence:
\$8,317.13 per year

Cost to Rent 1 BD apartment:
\$1,000-\$1,600 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
Wesbrook Village

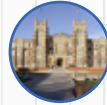


University of Calgary

Average cost of residence:
\$8,463.89 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$750-\$1000 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
St. Andrews Heights

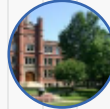


SAIT Polytechnic

Average cost of residence:
\$4,048.00 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$700-\$900 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
Kensington



University of Western Ontario

Average cost of residence:
\$11,340.19 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$450-\$750 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
Medway District



York University

Average cost of residence:
\$6,218.55 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$700-\$1200 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
York University Heights



Humber College

Average cost of residence:
\$8,952.59 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$600-\$950 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
Rexdale



University of Toronto

Average cost of residence:
\$12,081.13 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$1000-\$1600 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
The Annex



Dalhousie University

Average cost of residence:
\$6,684.45 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$600-\$900 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
South End



Queen's University

Average cost of residence:
\$11,352.25 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$650-\$950 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
Queen's Ghetto



McGill University

Average cost of residence:
\$9,976.13 per year

Cost to rent 1 BR apartment:
\$550-\$800 per month

Popular student neighbourhood:
McGill Ghetto



LowestRates.ca
2 hours ago

Hey @McGillU what money saving tips would you give students starting uni this fall? Your tip will be featured in our student guide!



McGillU
2 hours ago

@LowestRates.ca Lots of good advice here:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/studentaid/finance/s/cash-tips>



LowestRates.ca
4 days ago

Hey @Dalnews what financial advice would you give students going back to school this fall? Your tip will be featured in our student guide!



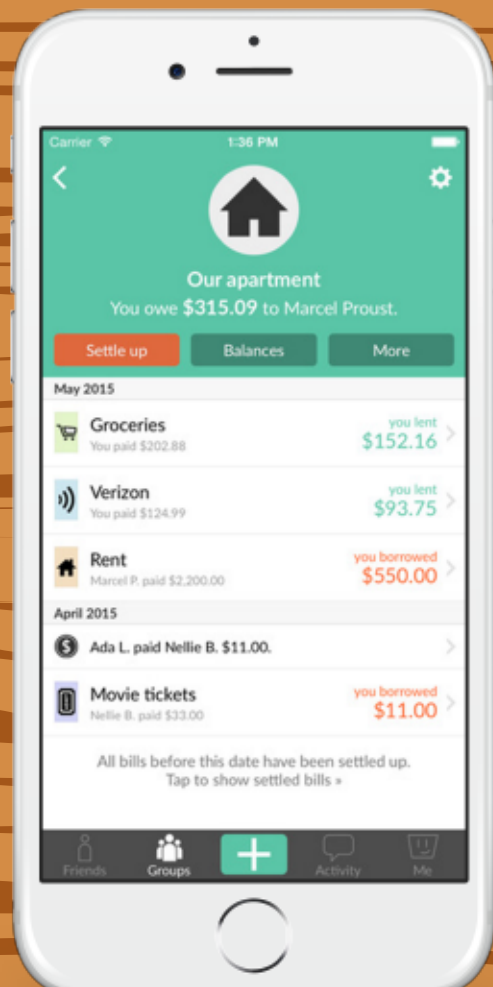
Dalnews
4 days ago

@LowestRates.ca Map out all of your costs for the semester against your income (inc. scholarships, loans, parents & work). 1/2



Dalnews
4 days ago

@LowestRates.ca Identify shortfalls well in advance, so you can take action!
http://www.dal.ca/admissions/money_matters/budgeting_your_money.htm 2/2



HOUSING

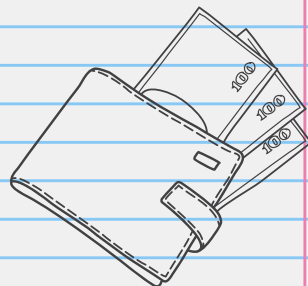
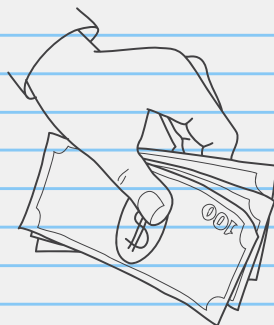
The Apps

If you're going away for school, you may want to use an app to find a comfortable place to live. Here are a few options that we recommend!

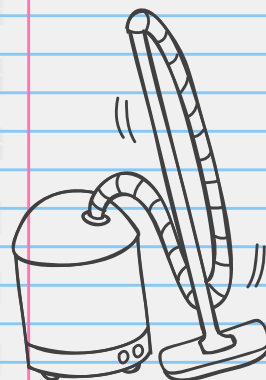
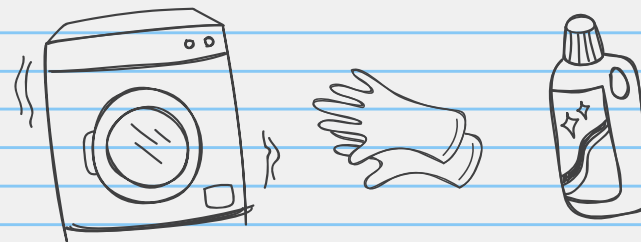


SPLITWISE

Splitwise allows you to split your bills with friends, family, and most importantly when you're a student, housemates. All of your shared expenses and bills are organized in a convenient spot to help everyone understand what is owed, who is owed, and where it is owed. Splitwise is available for download on Apple and Android devices.



Homeslice transforms expense tracking into a private social network for roommates. Use the Homeslice Whiteboard to post notes about household bills, whenever supplies are running low, and even whose turn it is to do the cleaning. You can share upcoming events in a social calendar so all your friends know what to look forward to. Homeslice can be downloaded on Apple and Android devices.



A new mobile app developed by Places4Students makes off-campus house hunting a piece of cake. Use this app to hunt for vacant accommodations, roommate wanted notices, and even sublet postings.

This app even makes it easier for landlords or property managers to find the best tenants to fill vacant rooms. Places4Students is available for download on Apple and Android devices.

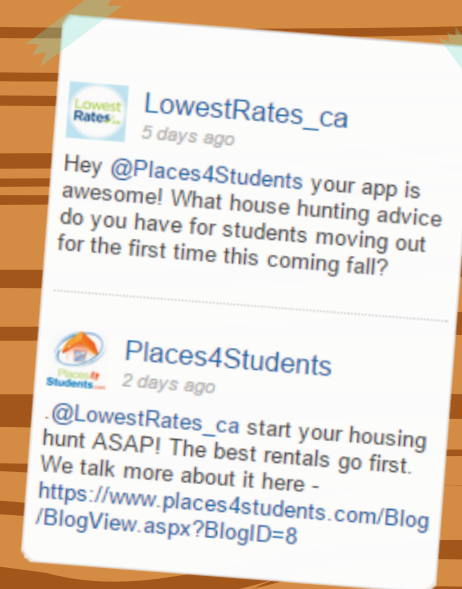
Housing

Transportation

Food

Budgeting

Day Spending



TRANSPORTATION

Even after you pay your tuition, rent a place, and buy course materials and supplies, you still have to get to class everyday. Here's how to keep your transportation costs under control:

Go with Student and/or Monthly Passes

The city where your school is located likely offers transit deals to students. If you have to get to campus everyday, remember also that it's usually cheapest in the long run to buy a monthly pass rather than pay for single-day fares.

Choose the Right Permit

Tip: parking lots that are further from campus tend to be cheaper. Plus, you'll get some exercise on your way to school! You can also cut costs by choosing a non-reserved permit rather than a reserved one – the latter, where you park in a designated space everyday, is always more expensive.

Always Compare Car Insurance Quotes

If you're driving to school, one big cost you'll have to worry about is auto insurance. Auto insurance prices can vary wildly among different providers, so it's important to always shop around for the best deal.

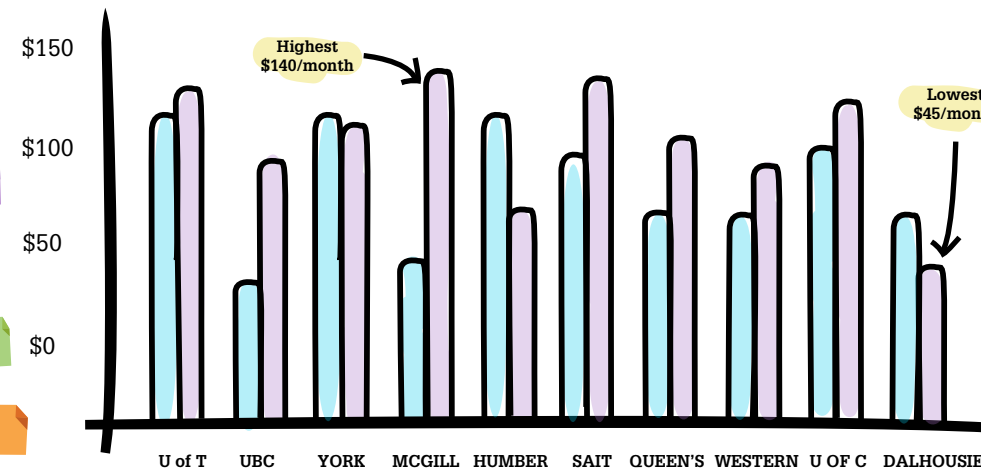
Transportation

Food

Budgeting

Day Spending

Cost of Transportation At Different Universities

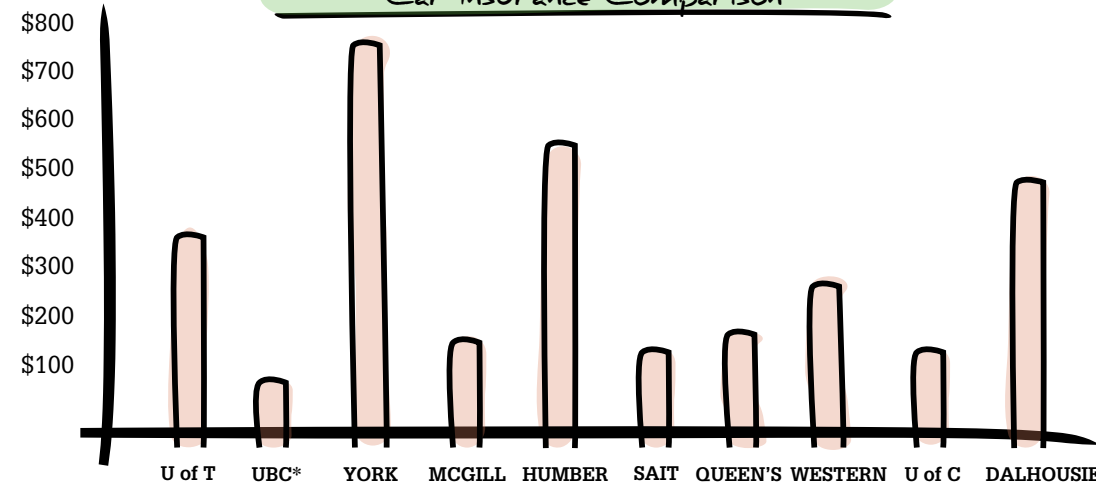


Sources: University parking and visitor services

● → Cost of transit pass per month
● → Cost of parking permit per month

U of T:	\$121	SAIT:	\$99
	\$130		\$141.25
UBC:	\$38	Queen's:	\$72
	\$91		\$108.18
York:	\$121	Western:	\$70
	\$117.95		\$86.74
McGill:	\$49.25	U of C:	\$99
	\$140		\$122.32
Humber:	\$121	Dalhousie:	\$70
	\$72.25		\$45

Car Insurance Comparison



(* UBC is a provincial average not a student average) Sources: Lowestrates.ca and BCAA.ca

U of T:	\$384.08	SAIT:	\$148
UBC:	\$92.75	Queen's:	\$163.42
York:	\$753.75	Western:	\$255.42
McGill:	\$157.50	U of C:	\$148
Humber:	\$546.33	Dalhousie:	\$496.58



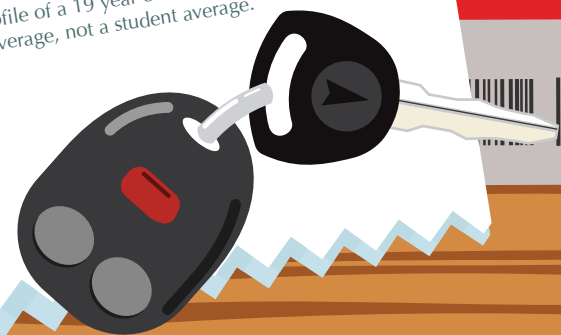
Student Transportation Costs

TRANSPORTATION
CAR INSURANCE

Average Student Rate:

University of Toronto \$384.08/month	University of Calgary \$148/month	University of Western Ontario \$255.42/month
York University \$753.75/month	SAIT Polytechnic \$148/month	Dalhousie University \$496.58/month
Humber College \$546.33/month	Queen's University \$163.42/month	University of British Columbia \$92.75/month
McGill University \$157.50/month		

*car insurance quotes acquired using the profile of a 19 year old male student with a clean record. UBC quote is a provincial average, not a student average.



PARKING PERMIT
TE: D ROW: S SEC: D



University of Toronto
\$130/month

York University
\$117.95/month

Humber College
\$72.25/month

McGill University
\$157.50/month

University of Calgary
\$148/month

SAIT Polytechnic
\$148/month

PARKING PERMIT
TE: D ROW: S SEC: D




Queen's University
\$108.18/month

University of Western Ontario
\$86.74/month

Dalhousie University
\$45/month

University of British Columbia
\$38/month

MONTHLY TRANSIT PASS



University of Toronto \$112/month	Humber College \$112/month	York University \$112/month	McGill University \$49.25/month
University of Calgary \$148/month	SAIT Polytechnic \$148/month	Queen's University \$72/month	University of Western Ontario \$70/month
Dalhousie University \$70/month	University of British Columbia \$38/month		

LowestRates_ca
3 days ago

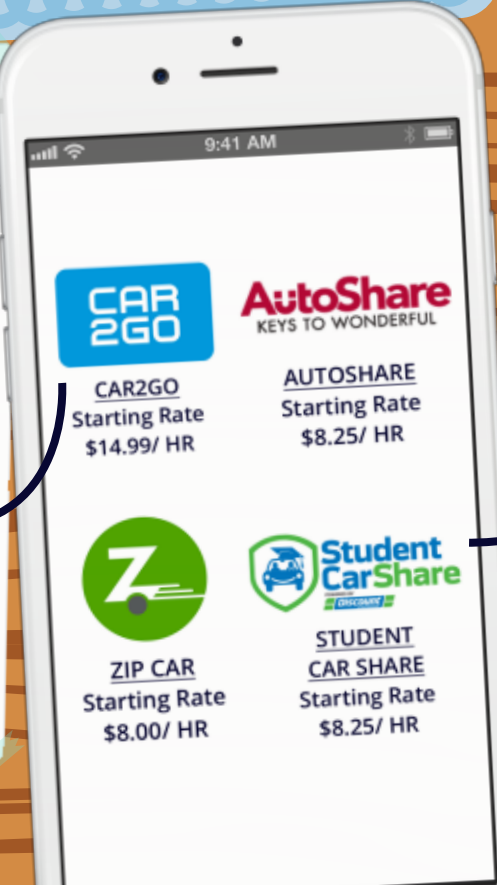
Hey @car2goCalgary got any tips for students returning 2 school this fall to help w/ transportation cost & getting around the city easier?

car2goCalgary
3 days ago

@LowestRates_ca Sure! Students can reserve cars up to 30 min ahead & use our free app to find nearest car. More info: <http://calgary.car2go.com/>

LowestRates_ca
15 minutes ago

@car2goCalgary Awesome tip for students thanks for sharing!



CAR 2GO
Starting Rate \$14.99/ HR

AutoShare
KEYS TO WONDERFUL
AUTOSHARE
Starting Rate \$8.25/ HR

ZIP CAR
Starting Rate \$8.00/ HR

Student CarShare
STUDENT CAR SHARE
Starting Rate \$8.25/ HR

LowestRates_ca
3 days ago

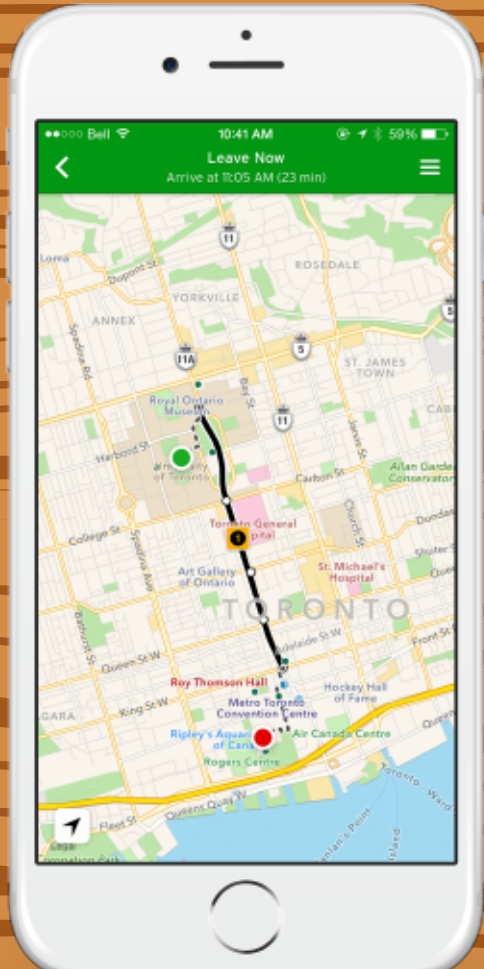
Hey @StudentCarShare got any tips for students returning 2 school this fall to help w/ transportation cost & getting around the city easier?

StudentCarShare
3 days ago

@LowestRates_ca Highly encourage students to check campus transport services, bus, bike, carpool, & of course, #SCS - we're across Canada!

LowestRates_ca
23 minutes ago

@StudentCarShare sounds like great advice for students thanks for sharing!



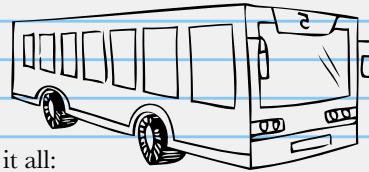
TRANSPORTATION

The Apps

No matter how you get to campus, there's probably an app out there that will make your trip easier and less expensive. Here are two of our favourites.



Transit App



When it comes to transit, this app does it all: you get arrival times and directions on the transit routes that matter to you most, with real time data. You can even set up the app to deliver push notifications so you'll know when you should leave the house. The app works across all your transportation options: train, subway, bus -- even Uber and car2go! Transit App is available for download on Apple and Android devices.



LowestRates.ca
3 days ago

Hey @TTChelps got any tips for students returning to school this fall to help with transportation cost and getting around the city easier?



TTChelps
3 days ago

@LowestRates.ca I have attached a link from our website. Please view what section applies to you.
<http://ow.ly/Q2B84> ^CW



LowestRates.ca
4 days ago

Hey @VIA_Rail got any tips for students returning to school this fall to help with traveling cost and jumping from city to city?



VIA Rail
4 days ago

@LowestRates.ca 1/2 Hr. Some great summer deals at <http://www.viarail.ca/en/fares-and-packages/special-offers>, and normally announce fall specials in Aug. Advise



VIA Rail
4 days ago

@LowestRates.ca 2/2 ... youth/students to create a profile at <https://reservia.viarail.ca/profile/Createprofile.aspx?en> so they are informed of promotions asap. ^MA

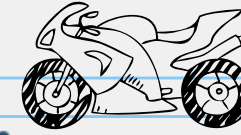


LowestRates.ca
4 days ago

@VIA_Rail thanks for tip! Have a great day! #fnyay



GasBuddy.com



Want to know where to get cheap gas? Look no further than the GasBuddy app! GasBuddy shows you where to find the cheapest gas in whatever neighbourhood you're in. Simply press the "Find Gas Near Me" button and the app does the rest! GasBuddy is available for download on Apple and Android devices.



Hey @GasBuddy whats the best feature your app offers to students starting university this fall? #BestApp

LowestRates.ca sent 3 days ago



@LowestRates.ca aside from #CheapGas, it would be our #TripCostCalculator, plan & budget your route back to school! <http://bit.ly/tripcostcalc>

GasBuddy sent 3 days ago

SPECIAL OFFER

Get a 10% discount on your car insurance plan from **LowestRates.ca!***

Get a quote and ask about your special student discount.

Transportation

Food

Budgeting

Day Spending



FOOD

Eating Out

If you find your schedule requires you to frequently eat out, try to keep the cost as low as you can.

Take Food With You. Whether it's your coffee or your lunch, making stuff at home will save you hundreds, and possibly even thousands of dollars per year. Invest in a take-away coffee mug and some tupperware containers and you'll be set for the school year.

Skip The Restaurant. Even if you want to get together with friends, you can still eat in. Make a meal together and simply split the grocery bill. You'll have fun and you'll save money!

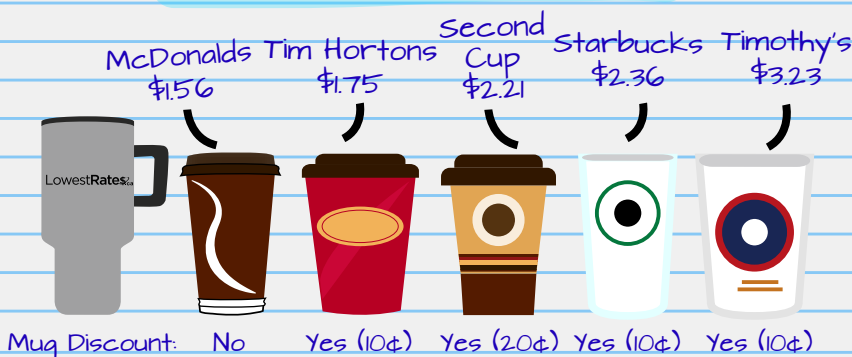
Avoid Vending Machines. Vending machines seem to lurk in every hallway, ready to take your 2 dollars just when you're feeling most vulnerable to a food or soft-drink craving. Pack snacks instead.

The Coffee Fix

Want to save on coffee? Simple -- make it at home. With coffee now over \$2.00 a cup on most campuses, this one small practice can save you up to \$40 or more each month.

If you just have to have coffee on the go, here's how much you can expect to pay.

Cost of Medium Coffee (with tax)



MONEY SAVING TIPS

Save on Groceries

One of the best ways to save money while you're in school is to cut your food bill. All it takes is a little bit of planning and a few smart choices every week and you'll be racking up the savings in no time!

Make A List. Lists work. Lists save money. Lists, dear students, let you get ahead. Take five minutes and make a list of all the grocery items you think you'll need during the week.

Don't Shop Hungry.

Never commit the cardinal sin of entering a grocery store on an empty stomach. Hunger can overwhelm the judgement of even the most frugal shopper.

Generic > Brand.

From peanut butter to pretzels, buying generic foods can save you a bundle. Some even taste better than their fancier name-brand counterparts!

Stock Up On Staples... When They're On Sale! Pasta, flour, canned fish, olive oil -- get stocked when your favourite staples come on sale.

Write It Down and Compare. Take down the prices of common items like milk, eggs and veggies and compare them at different stores. Rinse. Repeat.

Fruits & Veggies in Season.

Locally grown fruits and veggies that are in season are usually cheaper than their more exotic counterparts. The reason is simple -- they have less distance to travel before getting to market. Buying local also has the added bonus of being better for the environment.

Don't Shop This Week.

Students tend to load up at the grocery store without using the stuff they've already bought. Every month or two you should simply 'stay home' from the store for a week. Don't worry -- the supermarket will still be there when you're ready to shop again!

Look @ Unit Prices.

Groceries come in all shapes and sizes. Don't be fooled by sophisticated packaging -- check the unit price of the items you are buying. Most foods come with the unit prices displayed at the bottom, expressed as volume(ml) or weight(grams).

Look High, Look Low.

Grocery retailing is a science. Stores place the most expensive and highest margin items at eye level, where they are easiest to see and easiest to reach. Check the upper and lower shelves for better bargains.

Check Flyers!

This is where you'll find (some of) the best deals.

Wash, Cut, Peel.

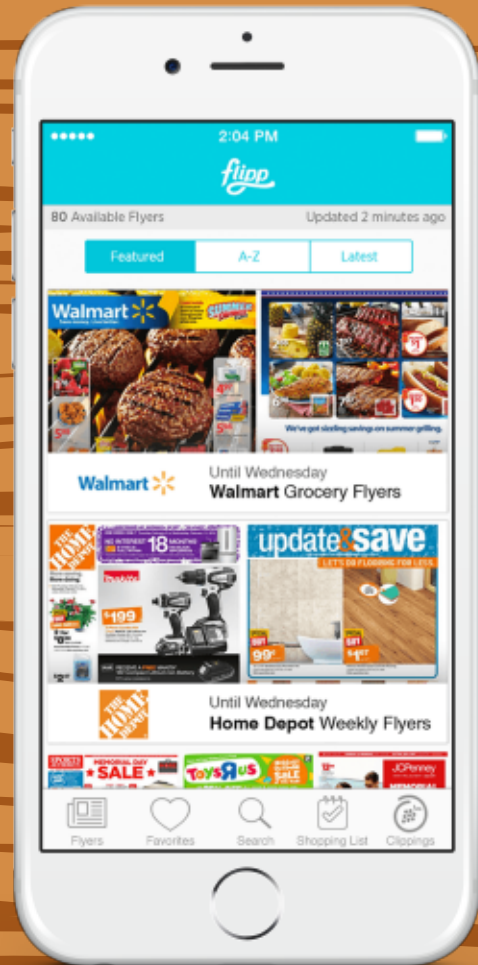
Prepare your own meals and snacks rather than buying pre-made food. Pre-packaged meals can cost three or even four times as much as regular food.

Swap Out Meat.

Many Canadian students love their beef, fish and poultry, but the fact is, eating meat can be expensive. Shrink your budget by opting for cheaper proteins like lentils, beans, nuts and tofu.

Think 'Scanner Price'

Accuracy Code. So, what is the code? Basically, if the scanned price at checkout is higher than the price displayed in the store, the lower price will be honoured by most retailers. Don't be afraid to invoke the code! You can read about it here: www.retailcouncil.org/advocacy/national/issues/cp/scanner_accuracy02_eng.asp



FOOD

The Apps

Saving money on food has never been easier thanks to the many wickedly-useful grocery and coupon apps now available to anyone with a smartphone.



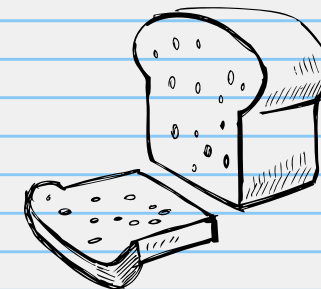
With Flipp, bargain hunters get all the weekly flyers at their fingertips – simply enter your postal code and Flipp shows you the latest deals in your area. Browse by category, clip items by tapping, and make shopping lists. Flipp even has a search feature – want to find cereal on the cheap? Just type it in the search bar and Flipp will find flyers with the best cereal deals that week.



Trying to compare prices at the grocery store while you're on the go? The Price Cruncher app let's you quickly and easily find the best price on a per unit basis. Compare milk, pastas, yogurt or anything else you're buying!




With millions of downloads, there's obviously lots to love about the Grocery iQ app. Make your perfect grocery list and sort products by aisles, clip coupons and view matching stores nearby, favourite frequently-purchased products and even use voice search to find them later - Grocery iQ is the Swiss Army Knife of supermarket apps.




Budgeting

Pay Spending




 **LowestRates_ca**
a day ago

Hey @LoblawsON what money saving tips would you give college students starting school this fall?

 **LoblawsON**
17 hours ago

@LowestRates_ca Registering for our PC Plus program is a definite must! Who doesn't like free groceries?! Download our PC Plus App today!

 **LowestRates_ca**
33 minutes ago

@LoblawsON what a great tip for students, everyone loves free groceries!

BUDGETING

If you're worried about getting through the school year with your finances intact, probably the #1 thing you can do is make a budget!

Get started by keeping track of your monthly expenses and calculating your monthly income. If you don't have any actual work income, add up the amount you've designated to get you through the school year and divide by the number of months you'll be studying.

One of the best ways to save money is to understand exactly how you spend it. By tracking your fixed and variable expenses, you can see how much cash you'll need every month and where you can potentially cut back.



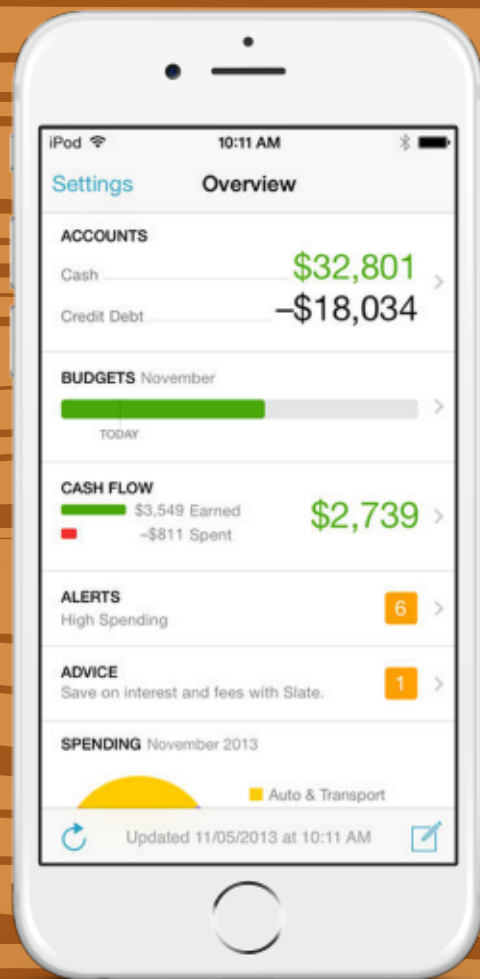
Daily Spending

	Groceries	Dining Out	Coffee	Transportation	Entertainment	School Supplies	Misc.
Day 1.	0	19.25	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 2.	140	0	0	3.00	0	5.00	0
Day 3.	0	0	1.50	3.00	14.00	0	20.00
Day 4.	0	0	2.75	3.00	0	0	0
Day 5.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 6.	140	0	1.50	3.00	0	170.00	0
Day 7.	0	0	1.50	3.00	49.20	0	0
Day 8.	0	0	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 9.	0	8.40	0	0	0	0	0
Day 10.	0	0	0	3.00	0	0	65.25
Day 11.	0	0	0	15.00	0	0	0
Day 12.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 13.	0	0	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 14.	13.70	0	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 15.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 16.	0	28.20	0	0	0	0	0
Day 17.	0	0	0	3.00	5.50	0	2.50
Day 18.	0	0	1.50	3.00	14.00	0	0
Day 19.	0	3.35	0	3.00	0	0	0
Day 20.	0	0	0	3.00	0	0	0
Day 21.	0	0	2.75	0	0	0	0
Day 22.	0	22.10	1.50	0	0	0	0
Day 23.	0	0	0	0	0	45.90	0
Day 24.	85	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 25.	0	12.50	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 26.	0	4.00	1.50	3.00	21.50	0	0
Day 27.	14.50	0	1.50	3.00	0	0	0
Day 28.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 29.	0	12.10	0	0	0	0	0
Day 30.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Day 31.	0	0	1.50	3.00	8.00	0	0
Total Spend By Category	278.00	109.00	25.00	72.00	112.00	230.00	88.00
Total Spend For Month	915.00						

Budgeting 101

Fixed Costs

Income	2111.66
Daily Expenses	983.4
Housing/Rent	450
Phone Bill/Internet	47.61
Heat and Hydro	47.61
Total Expenses (daily + fixed)	1481.01
This Month's Savings	630.65



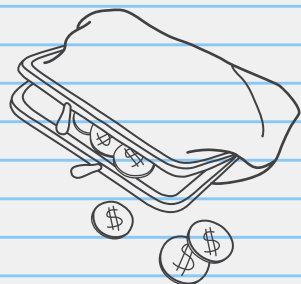
BUDGETING

The Apps

If manually tracking expenses isn't your thing, you can turn to one of several mobile apps developed specifically to help people manage money.




Mint is one of the most popular budgeting apps on the market. Mint connects all your financial information in one convenient place, including bank accounts, credit card accounts, and monthly bills. You can even do a free credit check and see your most recent credit score. Mint is available for Apple, Android and Windows devices.



 **LowestRates_ca**
5 days ago

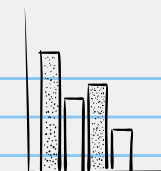
Hey @mintbills what advice would you give students starting university this year on budgeting & tracking their expenses? #FinancialLiteracy

 **mintbills**
5 days ago


@LowestRates_ca Hi, we suggest starting a budget & sticking to it! Make a "date" to check your budget at least once a month.

 **LowestRates_ca**
3 days ago

@mintbills Great advice for students, thanks so much for sharing!




If you use PayPal to pay for anything and everything, then this app is for you – send and receive money on the go, check your balance and transaction history, and even order ahead at your favourite restaurant with PayPal's Apple, Android or Windows Phone app.

 **LowestRates_ca**
5 days ago

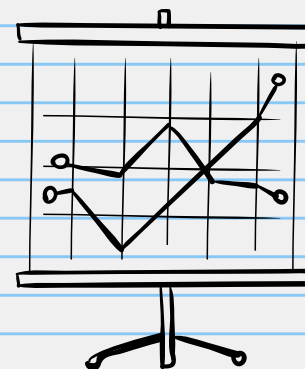
@AskPayPal Hey Paypal! What budget management advantages does your app offer College Students going back to school this fall?

LowestRates_ca sent 4 days ago

 **PayPal**
5 days ago

@LowestRates_ca Great question! We have media resources available here: <https://goo.gl/QTsZwb> ^AM

AskPayPal sent 3 days ago



Wally is a slick new budgeting app lauded by many as a very user-friendly (and indispensable) mobile personal finance tool. Wally helps track expenses, but also lets you calculate savings goals, providing you with an actual target to strive towards. While Wally is wildly popular this year, the app is only available for download to iOS devices.



Budgeting

Pay 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!

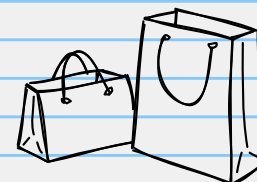
Studentawards MBNA Rewards MasterCard



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](#)
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@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

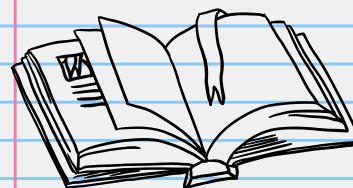
Even the thriftiest students have to shop sometimes. Get the most bang for your student buck with these tips.

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:

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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!

