LIFESTYLE

International money safety: Tips on how to keep your money secure abroad

The school year is now in full swing, but if your studies or work have taken you abroad – or maybe you're enjoying a travel break – there's also lots to learn about keeping your money safe and secure.

Here's our top tips:

Taking care of your foreign currency used to be a case of keeping your cash close – don't leave the hotel with large amounts of money, keep your wallet or purse out of sight and trust in traveller's cheques. But things move on.

With more convenient ways to carry cash abroad, such as pre-paid cards and apps, there are new risks to keep in mind, and ways to protect your money while travelling.

Whether you're studying abroad, taking a trip away before your studies get serious, or seeing the world on a gap year, take a look at our top tips for keeping your money safe with Zing.

Control your card and keep an eye on spending from the app

If you lose cash anywhere, the chances are you won't get it back. The general switch from cash to card has added an extra layer of security, with chip and PIN making it more difficult for someone to steal your money. But there is still a risk.

Tap and pay means that if someone gets their hands on your card, they can make a number of smaller, but significant, transactions before you even realise. And if they've seen you enter your PIN beforehand they could withdraw money at an ATM or make larger purchases.

If you realise in time that your card has gone missing, you have to go through the inconvenience of cancelling the card. That's tricky enough when you're at home, and can be even more frustrating when you're abroad.

With Zing, your PIN is only visible in the app, which you can choose to access via biometrics such as your unique fingerprint. It also means that you can tap to pay without having to enter your PIN at the payment terminal – simply use your fingerprint to unlock the Zing app and you're all set.

Turning on app notifications will keep you up to date and alert to any payments you don't recognise (and the ones you do). And if anything strikes you as being out of the ordinary, log into the Zing app and tap on 'Card'.

Here you can freeze the card to put a halt to any unauthorised spending. You can also order a replacement and view card details, including the 3-digit security code. Remember, all this information remains secure, hidden behind your unique 5-digit passcode or biometric security used to log into the app.

Whether you're sampling the bars during freshers' week, buying books online or spending money to smarten up student accommodation, Zing keeps your money safe.

Get 24/7 help whatever the time zone

There's lots of useful information and advice on our app and zing.me to help keep your money safe while you're abroad.

But we're also here personally to answer your questions and take care of any money safety issues you face while travelling. Have peace of mind that real human customer support is just an instant message away, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Just open the app, tap on the 'Get help' to open ZingCare , and start a new chat. Whatever time zone you're in.

Zing – safety built in

Zing is part of HSBC Group – so we know a thing or two about keeping your money safe.

And while we share the same safety principles as HSBC, we're not a bank – we're an Electronic Money Institution (EMI).

Simply put, this means we protect your money differently to how a bank does (and we don't offer loans or pay interest on your balance). We use a process called safeguarding – where we hold your money in a separate bank that isn't part of HSBC Group.

When it comes to protecting your money and data from theft and fraud, we're every bit as rigorous as HSBC. We go way beyond what some other providers offer. Your data is stored by Zing using leading encryption standards to ensure its safety and security, and we act fast and take tough action on any hint of fraud.

Like in the UK, you should be cautious whenever sharing personal information or using your Zing card, but know that we're here to help if things go wrong.

Enjoy your education, whatever and wherever you're studying, with Zing – the worry-free international money app.

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The Zing Growth team

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Tips for using your card abroad

Before you head off on holiday, it's important to choose the right card to take with you.

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We've picked out our top 5 global destinations for LGBTQ+ travellers – all places you can feel accepted and where you can use Zing to hold money in that destination's currency (because once you've topped your wallet up, you can make...

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