

MESSAGING HOUSE
COST OF LIVING
(draft, updated January 2023)

	PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS		CURRENT STUDENTS	PARENTS AND GUARDIANS
Over-arching messages	Preston is one of the most attractive and affordable cities for student living.	Being a student at the University of Central Lancashire is more affordable than you think.	We have lots of support available to help you manage the financial costs of student life.	Despite what you may have heard, university is affordable for all and will set your child up for a successful future.
Key messages	<p>Top place to live and work Preston has been named the best city to live and work in the North West (Demos-PwC Good Growth for Cities Index, 2022). For the third time, Preston has ranked first across a number of categories rated by members of the public as being most important, including economic wellbeing, availability of jobs, and a positive work-life balance. Preston ranked 13th overall in the UK.</p> <p>Preston has also been named the second best city in the UK for graduates to live. (Compare The Market, 2022)</p> <p>Purple Flag status Preston continues to hold a prestigious Purple Flag (similar to the 'Blue Flags' awarded to quality beaches) in recognition of its vibrant evening and night-time economy. It factors in the diverse mix of dining, entertainment and culture on offer; the safety and wellbeing of residents; and the affordability of what's on offer. It is currently the only place in Lancashire to hold Purple Flag status.</p> <p>Preston is one of the most affordable cities in the UK to live in Zoopla recently carried out a study to determine the 10 most affordable cities for students to rent in, and Preston is joint 6th. [Need to add: average cost of a basket of shopping, accommodation, transport, pint of beer, etc?]</p> <p>Campus in the heart of the city Our Preston Campus is located right in the heart of the city centre, so everything you need - from shopping to cafes to culture - is on your doorstep and within walking distance.</p> <p>There are a number of budget supermarkets close to the University, including Aldi, Home Bargains and B&M.</p> <p>Preston is one of the most well connected cities in the UK Preston train station is just a 10-minute walk from the campus, providing connections to the rest of the UK - cutting down on the cost of visiting your family. Manchester, Lancaster, Liverpool and Blackpool are within easy reach. And because Preston is located along the West Coast Mainline, you can reach London or Glasgow in around 2.5 hours by train.</p>	<p>Investing in your future - University IS affordable Don't be intimidated by the headline course costs. Yes, £9,250 per year tuition fees may sound a lot. But remember that you won't have to pay these fees up front, you'll apply for a government loan to cover your tuition fees. You can also get a maintenance loan from the government to help with the costs of student life, and you won't be expected to pay anything back on both your maintenance loan and your tuition fee loan until you've graduated and you've got a good job.</p> <p>Our student accommodation is affordable and convenient In StudentCrowd's Cheapest UK Cities for Student Accommodation League Table, Preston has been placed 6th out of 70 city UK universities for accommodation costs. We offer some of the most affordable student accommodation around, starting at less than £80pw.</p> <p>The average cost of rent in Preston is £112 per week (compared with Leeds £133, Chester £137, Ormskirk £143, Liverpool £152, Lancaster £158, Manchester £193, central London £292).</p> <p>In these uncertain times, you'll never need to worry about your energy bills. Your rent costs are all-inclusive, so you don't need to pay separately for water, electricity, heating or even Wi-Fi - it's all included!</p> <p>All our student accommodation is located on or close to campus, so you won't need to pay to commute to the University every day. Everything you need, from the Library to the Student Centre and Students' Union to the Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre, is right on your doorstep. And you'll never need to worry about being late for lectures!</p> <p>Did you know that accommodation costs can end up using nearly three-quarters of the maximum cash available to students from grants or loans? Your student loan might not be enough to cover the full cost and it has to be paid up-front. With our affordable range of student accommodation, you don't need to worry.</p> <p>Guaranteed place in halls for all new full-time students at our Preston Campus Offering excellent value for money, our halls range from around £78 to just over £127 per week. As a new full-time student you're guaranteed a place in our halls if we're your first choice of university.</p> <p><i>If you are made a room offer in one of our owned or leased accommodations and you are a UK student, you will need to make an Advance Rent Payment of £250 when you accept the offer.</i></p> <p><i>This Advance Payment of Rent will be deducted from your October rent instalment. The balance of the rent is</i></p>	<p>Financial advisers Struggling with the cost of student life? We have expert financial advisers based at the Student Centre who can give you practical advice on managing your living costs, paying your student fees, drawing up a budget and more.</p> <p>The Students' Union run an independent advice centre where you can get support with any aspect of student life.</p> <p>Support is on hand Don't struggle in silence. We have lots of resources that can help you now. These include a range of hardships funds, referrals to local foodbanks, emergency food vouchers whilst applying for longer term support, and advice and support from our Student Support Team.</p> <p>Bursaries and scholarships We want you to excel at university, whatever your background or financial income. We have a number of bursaries and scholarships available to students from low-income households and those facing barriers which could potentially prevent them from achieving their potential.</p> <p>These include bursaries for students who are care leavers and/or those estranged from their families, as well as students with disabilities / learning needs.</p> <p>Hardship funds If you find yourself experiencing financial hardship we may be able to offer you some financial support to help with the everyday costs of student life through one of our discretionary hardship funds. [can we promote/mention the Harris Bursary Fund?]</p> <p>Support from the Government Some students may be entitled to extra financial support from the Government, including childcare grants, parents' living allowance, etc.</p> <p>Struggling to pay? Know your rights It's important to know your rights if you're living in private accommodation and struggling to pay your rent (eg speak to your landlords or housing association, know your rights re: eviction etc.)</p> <p>Careers Team Our Careers Team can help you with job applications and interview skills if you're thinking of getting a part-time job to earn some extra income to support you while you study. This work experience will also be a boost to your CV.</p> <p>Community Fridge project launched We have launched a Community Fridge in our Preston Students' Union building. This is a funded project to help tackle food waste primarily, but we are scoping out options of how we can increase access to free/low-cost food across campuses by connecting with local providers.</p> <p>Free sports membership</p>	<p>Investing in your future - University IS affordable Don't be intimidated by the headline course costs. Yes, £9,250 per year tuition fees may sound a lot. But remember that you won't have to pay these fees up front, you'll apply for a government loan to cover your tuition fees. You can also get a maintenance loan from the government to help with the costs of student life, and you won't be expected to pay anything back on both your maintenance loan and your tuition fee loan until you've graduated and you've got a good job.</p> <p>Help with costs of student life Your child can get a loan from the government, which is called a maintenance loan, to pay for accommodation and to help with the day-to-day costs of student life. It's worth noting that the maintenance loan is means-tested on your household income so might not cover the full cost of your child's accommodation costs.</p> <p>Save money by commuting into uni Many of our students choose to live at home and commute into university, saving money. Travel passes for public transport can be a good investment and students can apply for a parking permit on campus. Both Preston train station and bus station are just a 10-minute walk to the Preston Campus.</p> <p>Low cost, all-inclusive halls accommodation In these uncertain times, we don't want our students to worry about their energy bills. Our halls fees are all-inclusive, which includes water, electricity, heating and Wi-Fi - and are set for the year so won't rise.</p> <p>Preston is one of the most affordable cities in the UK to live in Preston is in the top 10 most affordable cities in the UK in which to live. A recent Zoopla study placed Preston joint 6th for the most affordable cities for students to rent in.</p> <p>University is a great investment Having a degree will make your child more employable. On average, 95.5% of our graduates move into employment or further study within six months of graduation (HESA 2018).</p> <p>Bank accounts with benefits Most young people open a student account specifically for uni purposes and keep their own bank account/money separate. Many banks offer attractive incentives for students setting up new accounts - from cinema tickets to railcards offering generous discounts on travel - so shop around to find the best deal.</p> <p>Student loan repayments Don't be put off by the size of the 'student debt' your child will graduate</p>

		<p><i>collected in three parts, usually in October, January and April.</i></p> <p>Private accommodation Renting private accommodation in the North West is generally cheaper than other parts of the UK. We've been placed 6th out of 70 city universities for accommodation costs. Cheapest UK Cities for Student Accommodation StudentCrowd</p> <p>Don't get ripped off by private landlords. If you're looking for private accommodation then you can use our StudentPad website to find reputable landlords who've been vetted by the University.</p> <p>Excellent Library facilities We have outstanding Library facilities, including our five-storey Library building on the Preston Campus, which is open 24/7 during term-time. You'll have access to thousands of printed and online books and journals, many of which are accessible on or off campus. So you'll rarely need to buy textbooks for your course.</p> <p>Our Library also offers a warm space to work and hot showers are available.</p> <p>Support for mature students Around two-thirds of our students are over 21 years-old and classed as 'mature students'. Many of our degrees are offered part-time, which means you can work to support your studies.</p>	<p>There's no need to sign up for an expensive gym membership! We offer all our students free membership at our sports facilities, including our Sir Tom Finney Sports Centre and Sports Arena for the entire duration of your course. [Do not promote to prospective students]</p> <p>Supporting you on campus Remember all students get free access to sports facilities, including the gym. There are also places across campus where you can use a microwave (The Atrium and social spaces), access hot water, water fountains and showers for free.</p>	<p>with. It's probably more accurate to think of their outstanding student loan as a 'graduate tax' rather than a 'debt' - a small amount that will be deducted from your child's salary every month for a portion of their working life.</p> <p>Supporting students on campus All students get free access to sports facilities, including the gym. There are also places across campus where students can use a microwave, access hot water, water fountains and showers for free.</p> <p>Affordable student accommodation In StudentCrowd's Cheapest UK Cities for Student Accommodation League Table, Preston has been placed 6th out of 70 city UK universities for accommodation costs. We offer some of the most affordable student accommodation around, starting at less than £80pw.</p>
<p>Examples / supporting stats</p>	<p>General moneysaving tips / practical advice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take advantage of student railcards - particularly the 16-25 Railcard - to get up to one-third off the costs of travel. • When you set up a student bank account look out for attractive offers. Some banks offer students a 'free' railcard for 4 years which is a great saving. • Take advantage of your TOTUM card (formerly the NUS card) to enjoy discounts on everything from your shopping (eg 10% off your spend at the Co-op) to fashion (Asos, Boohoo, Schuh), leisure (money off cinema tickets) and eating out (Domino's, Tastecard). Also check out moneysaving websites like Student Beans, UniDAYS and Save The Student. External links such as the Money saving expert, and Blackbullion also offer great money saving advice. • For affordable food and drink make sure you visit the Students' Union bar and shops on campus • To add: are there any sites where students can buy/swap second-hand textbooks, other items for their course, etc? • To add: community cafes / volunteer-run supermarkets in the local area where students can pick up cheap fresh produce? 			