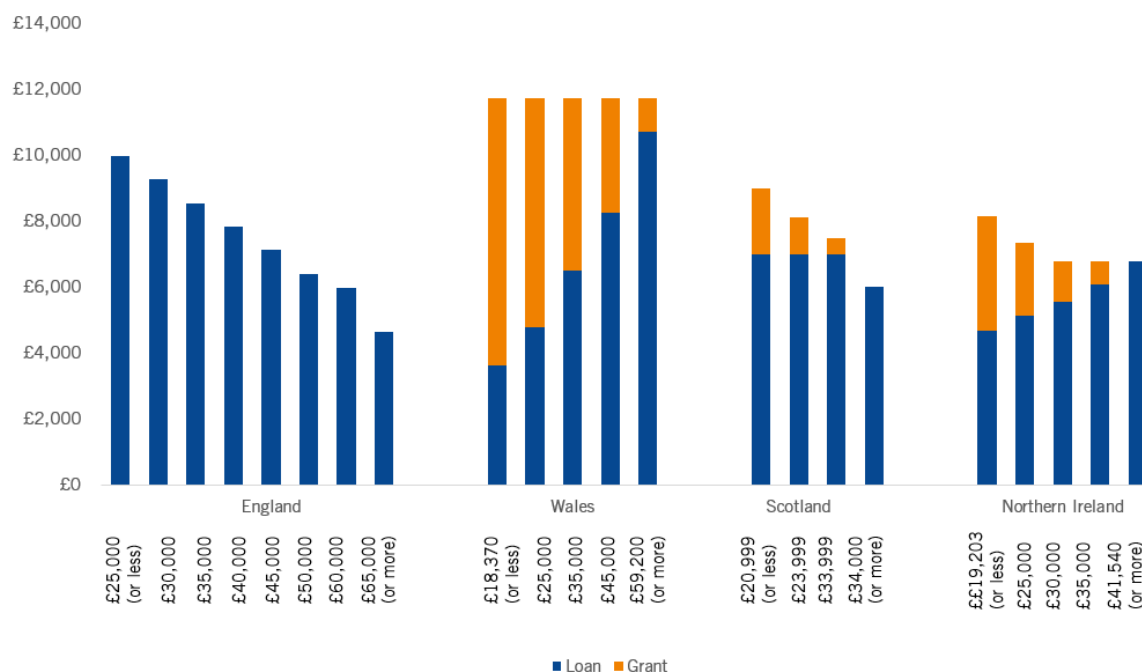


Student Maintenance – analysis December 2023

Background - Current student maintenance levels by nation



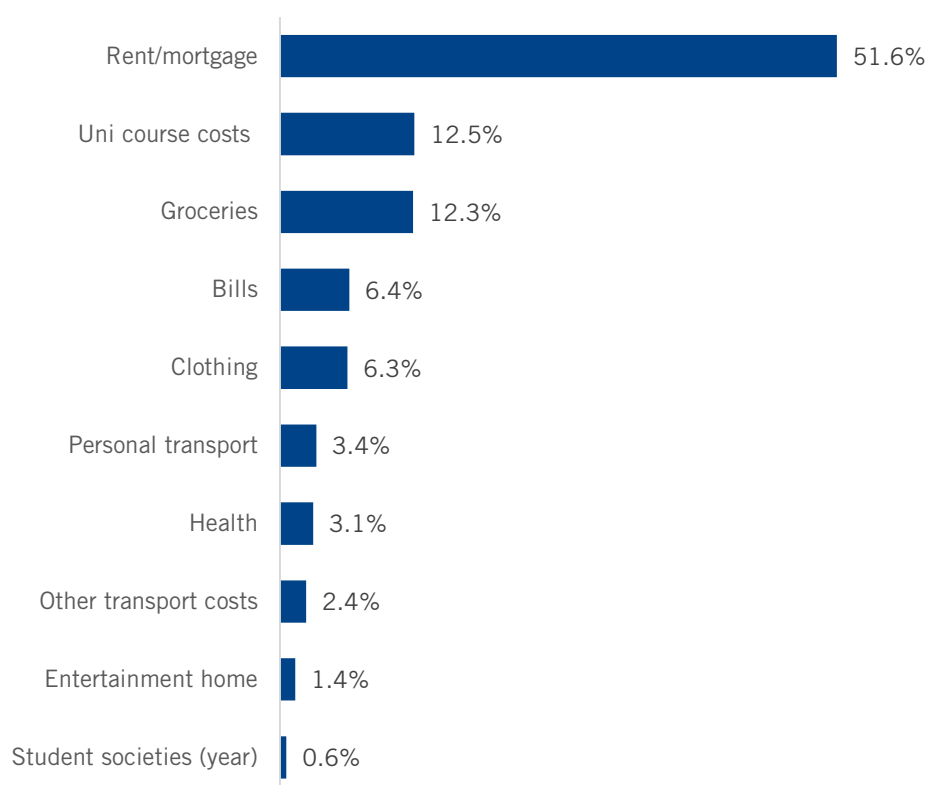
Figure 1. Maintenance support by household income



Overall average spending figure – living away from home outside London

- The median student has costs of £11,400 on essential spending across an academic year of 9 months – those with no dependents, only those not living with family and outside of London. Essential spending was higher than the maximum maintenance loan (£9,978) for 57% of students. For 19% of students, their housing costs alone were higher than the maximum loan.
- Figure 2 looks at the split of students' spending on different types of expense, with all figures shown as the average (mean) spending in a category as a proportion of each student's overall spending. On average, 52% of students' essential spending is going on rent/mortgage costs, 12.5% on university related costs (e.g. for equipment), 12.3% on groceries and 6.4% on bills.

Figure 2. Breakdown of essential spending

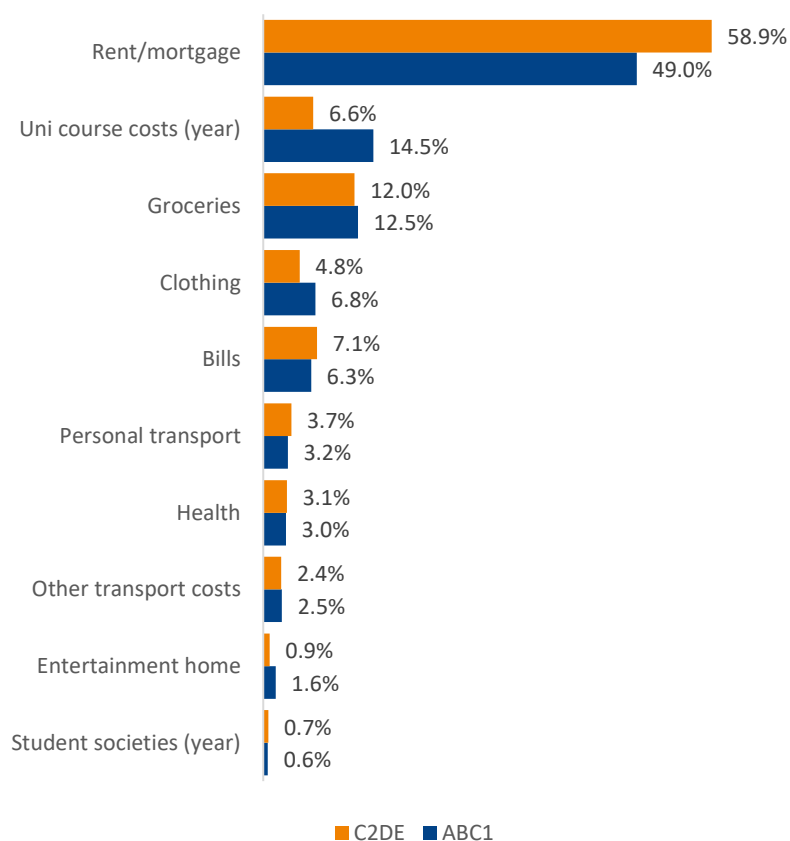


Comparisons between groups

(Those with dependents removed, only those not living with family and outside of London)

- Average spending differs substantially between students from **different socio-economic groups** (Figure 3). For those from ABC1 (middle class students), median spending per year is £12,153. Whereas for C2DE (working class students) this figure is just £9,628. This indicates constrained spending by those who receive less parental financial support.
- The make-up of their spending also looks very different to that of better-off students. A high proportion of their essential spending goes on rent (59% vs 49%), though both groups have broadly similar median rent levels (£630 per month for working class students, vs £580 for better off students).
- Working class students report spending much less on university/course costs – with better off students having a much higher proportion of their essential spending on course related costs. There is also a great deal of variability in how much students spend on these costs, with 34% of better off students spending £1000 or more on these costs a year, compared to only 18% of working class students.

Figure 3. Breakdown of essential spending, by socio-economic group



Other groups

- Spending also differed considerably between student who had taken out a maintenance loan and those who had not. For those who had taken out a maintenance loan, median spending on essentials was £10,408 per year. This figure was considerably higher, at £19,974 per year, for those who had not taken out a loan. This is likely in large part due to the difference in socio-economic backgrounds between these two groups – with the group not taking out loans are mostly from the wealthiest backgrounds.
- Looking at where students live, there were also large differences in spending. For those in university halls of residence, median spending per year was £18,373 – considerably higher than the £8,806 for students living in private rental accommodation, mainly driven by housing costs. Spending was only slightly lower for those living at home with their parents (£7,280) than those in private accommodation.
- Median spending was the highest for students in the East of England (£18,749) followed by London (£17,287). The lowest spending was seen in Yorkshire and the Humber (£9,879) and the East Midlands (£10,337).
- Looking only at students with dependants and including spending on their children/dependents on top of other essential monthly spending, average costs for this group were £22,995 per year.

Table 1. Median spending on essentials by English region

Region	Spending
North West	£12,392
North East	£12,481
Yorkshire & Humberside	£9,878
West Midlands	£11,417
East Midlands	£10,337
Eastern	£18,749
South West	£11,407
South East	£11,305
London	£17,287

Method

- Savanta surveyed 2,104 current undergraduate students via their student omnibus, with polling taking place between 31st October – 13 November 2023. The student omnibus is weighted to be representative by Gender, Course Year and University Group (Russell Group, Post 1992 and Pre 1992 + Specialist institutions). The survey examined how much students are actually spending, and how this compares to maintenance loans that are available. Students were asked about their monthly spending across several categories categorised as “essential” (rent/mortgage payments, bills, groceries, health spending, clothing, entertainment at home – e.g. television license fee – and transport) which were extrapolated to 9 months of the academic year, and added to yearly spending on costs related to their course (e.g. equipment such as a laptop) and any costs related to their participation in student societies.