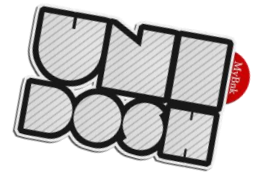


The 2012 fee-rise means that students currently doing their A-Levels will be faced with up to £65,000 of debt should they choose to attend university. With this figure now being considered in mortgage applications, are young people, particularly those from less advantaged backgrounds, being put off their studies by financial worries?

This is certainly not the case for year 12 and 13 students on the **LSE CHOICE programme**, which takes students from low-performing London state schools. Every student on the programme indicated that they want to go to University, with over half wanting to stay in London to study.

Whilst many had considered fee repayments, very few seem to have thought about how they might go about managing their money on a day-to-day basis, with terms such as ‘overdraft’ and ‘budget’ creating looks of confusion. MyBnk was on hand to help.



Elizabeth, 17



"It's not all about tuition fees – you taught us how to live as well – how to actually budget."

Elizabeth has just got her AS results for Literature, RE, Sociology and History. With the first year of A-Levels over, she has started thinking seriously about going to University.

Rather than staying in London, Elizabeth wants to “fly the nest” to a different city, perhaps Manchester. She thinks there is a gap in London between really elite universities with the highest fee rates and A-level requirements, and those offering lower fee rates but more vocational courses.

Plus, she adds, “I’ve been in London all my

life. I live with my older sister and she does literally everything for me– I want to learn how to do things for myself!”

How did MyBnk help Elizabeth?

MyBnk helped her to look at how she might budget for herself once she was out on her own. For the first time, she considered how she would manage her termly student loan, balancing needs and wants. Doing this through practical, interactive exercises, such as drawing up a theoretical monthly budget helped the situation to feel real to her.

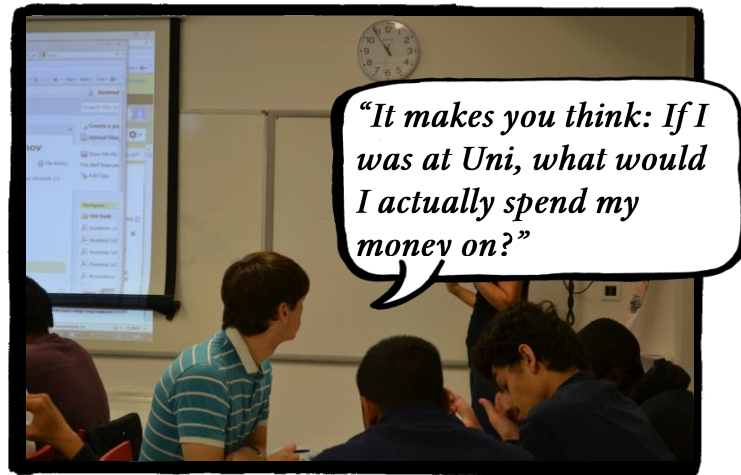


Did she know about the things covered in the session beforehand? “We’ve been told a bit about repayment of loans. It’s like I knew about it but I didn’t know about it.”

Ryan, 17

Economics and Politics student Ryan would rather stay in London for university, saying his family and friends are a big factor in this decision. He wants to balance out the higher cost of London living by staying at home.

However, if he did end up moving away for university, Uni Dosh helped to show him how he might cope with living away from home. “It would be much more expensive to move away, but I’m quite good at managing costs. I know now that I would be able to balance my needs and wants.”



What did Ryan think?

Despite considering himself pretty money-savvy, he found the workshop helpful because it was “much more real and more interactive than other programmes. It shows you your options, real-life situations and real-life people’s experiences.”

Juan, 18



Economics student, Juan, has an even clearer idea of where he wants to be applying in a year’s time: LSE itself. He only came to London two years ago, and does not want to leave yet: “everything’s expensive – but I love everything!”

However, LSE has a reputation for being one of the most expensive Universities in the country in terms of living costs: “rent is like, £800 a month here!” Juan wants to move into halls in first year, and then stay at home for the rest of the course.

What lies in the future for Juan?

Juan says he has never really thought beyond tuition fees and monthly rent. Perhaps London isn’t even as expensive as he thinks it is; Juan and the students around him over-estimated the prices of things on their personalised university shopping lists. The activity taught them how important it is to shop around for products, rather than just buying the most expensive version because it is easiest.