



# International Student Support

## OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT

**When you arrive in the UK, you will find it essential to open a UK bank account to manage your money easily.**

### **CAN I OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT IN THE UK?**

In most cases EU and International students will only be able to open a 'basic bank account'. It allows you to pay money in, withdraw cash, pay bills by standing order or debit card but you cannot get credit or overdraft facility. The type of documentation you will need to provide to open an account varies from bank to bank; you will therefore need to take this into consideration when choosing a bank.

### **BANKS NEAR NOTTINGHAM TRENT CITY CAMPUS**

All major banks are located in Nottingham City Centre - Barclays, HSBC, Natwest, Santander, Lloyds, TSB and Halifax. There is a Santander branch inside Newton Building, City campus.

### **THINGS TO CONSIDER WHEN OPENING A BANK ACCOUNT**

Before deciding which bank you want to use, you should compare the services they offer and charges that may apply. Most banks have special agreements with overseas banks. Here are some of the questions you may want to ask the bank when you enquire about their accounts:

- **Location:** Look for a branch near your campus or home.
- **Services offered:** Direct debits, standing orders, cheque books etc?
  - Type of card you will receive - cash card or debit card?
  - Do you send bank statements every month? (Please see important note below)
  - Does the account meet Shariah Principles? (only if you wish to opt for a Sharia-compliant account which complies with these Muslim principles)
- **Requirements:** Documents you will need to open an account, amount of money to deposit initially (optional).
- **Charges:** Monthly fees for the account, cost of transfer.
- **Other:** How long does it take to open the account? Any special agreements with your current bank account overseas?

This leaflet is produced by:

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**NOTTINGHAM**  
TRENT UNIVERSITY



### **IMPORTANT: Bank Statements**

Most banks will send you a bank statement by post every month. This document includes details of all transactions for your account. International students are advised to ensure their bank can send regular paper statements. It is important to keep it safe as they will be required for visa applications or as proof of address.

**Please note:** Online statements may not be accepted for visa applications, so it is better to not to choose this option if offered. Most banks can send you duplicates, but it can take several weeks to receive them and you may be charged for them.

### **WHAT DO I NEED TO OPEN A BANK ACCOUNT?**

All banks are required to check the identity of all new applicants. Requirements may vary from bank to bank, so check with the bank what they will need from you.

Typically, you will need:

- **Proof of ID**  
Your passport or;  
If you are from the EEA, your national ID (please be aware some ID cards are not acceptable)
- **Non-EEA students - proof of your UK immigration status**  
A valid visa/immigration document - vignette in your passport or Biometric Residence Permit (BRP)
- **Bank Letter (Letter of introduction for banking facilities) confirming your course details with your UK and overseas addresses**  
You will need to request this letter from your School Office once you have selected which bank you will use.

### **TIPS ON BANKING IN THE UK**

Once you have opened your account, remember the following:

- Always sign the back of your bank cards as soon as you receive them.
- Always remember to tell the bank if you change your address.
- Keep your personal details and account details somewhere safe, to prevent someone else using your account or "stealing your identity". For more information visit [www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud\\_protection/identity\\_fraud](http://www.actionfraud.police.uk/fraud_protection/identity_fraud).
- Most bank accounts provide cards and online banking to pay your bills, transfer money and view transactions which can save you a trip to the bank.
- Cash machines (ATMs) are almost everywhere; banks, campus, supermarkets, restaurants, etc. ATMs are usually free of charge for cash withdrawal and accept all UK bank cards.

### **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

Visit the nearest branch of the bank for more information about the accounts they offer and how to open an account. You can also find information about their products online.

### **TOP UK BANK ACCOUNTS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

Here is a list of the international student bank accounts for this year, taking into account the fees and other considerations we've covered above.

Name of Bank	Accounts Available	Monthly Account fee	Account Facilities	Send Fees (EU/Int.)	Receive Fees (EU/Int.)	Local branch address	For more details visit
 <b>Barclays</b>	Student Additions Account (International)	No Monthly fee	Contactless Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	Free - EU  Free - Int	€0 for EU  €6 for Int.	2 High Street, NG1 2EN	<a href="https://www.barclays.co.uk/current-accounts/international-student-bank-account/">https://www.barclays.co.uk/current-accounts/international-student-bank-account/</a>
 <b>HSBC</b>	Bank Account	No Monthly fee	Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£4 - EU  £4 - Int	Free up to £100 - EU  £6 over £100 - Int.  £8 for non-sterling currency	26 Clumber Street, NG1 3GA	<a href="http://www.hsbc.co.uk/current-accounts/products/bank-account/">www.hsbc.co.uk/current-accounts/products/bank-account/</a>
 <b>Halifax</b>	Student Current Account	No Monthly fee	Contactless Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£9.50 - EU  £9.50 - Int	£2 up to £100 - EU  £7 over £100 - Int	7-11 Milton Street, NG1 3EP  1 St Peter's Gate, NG1 2NW	<a href="http://www.halifax.co.uk/bankaccounts/current-accounts/student-account/">www.halifax.co.uk/bankaccounts/current-accounts/student-account/</a>
	Basic Account	No Monthly fee	Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	Free - EU  £9.50 - Int	Free up to £100 - EU  £7 over £100 - Int		<a href="http://www.halifax.co.uk/bankaccounts/current-accounts/basic-account/">www.halifax.co.uk/bankaccounts/current-accounts/basic-account/</a>
 <b>Lloyds</b>	Classic Account	No Monthly fee	Contactless Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£9.50 - EU  £9.50 - Int	£2 up to £100 - EU  £7 over £100 - Int	12-16 Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham NG1 3DA	<a href="http://www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/all-accounts/classic-account.asp#collapse5-1552935246228">www.lloydsbank.com/current-accounts/all-accounts/classic-account.asp#collapse5-1552935246228</a>
 <b>Natwest</b>	Select Account	No Monthly fee	Contactless Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£10 - EU  £22 - Int	£1 up to £100  £7 over £100	Unit 27, Victoria Shopping Centre, NG1 2JX	<a href="http://personal.natwest.com/personal/current-accounts/select-account.html#product-features">personal.natwest.com/personal/current-accounts/select-account.html#product-features</a>
	International Student Account	£10 per month	Contactless Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£10 - EU  £22 - Int	£1 up to £100 - EU  £7 over £100 - Int	16 South Parade, NG1 2JX	<a href="http://personal.natwest.com/personal/current-accounts/student-account.html#international">personal.natwest.com/personal/current-accounts/student-account.html#international</a>
 <b>TSB</b>	Cash Account	No Monthly fee	Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	€0 up to €5000 - EU (in GBP)  €10 up to €5000 (all other currency)  €17.50 over €5000 - Int	€2 up to €100 - EU  €7 over €100 - Int	11 Low Pavement, NG1 7DQ  46 Southchurch Drive, Clifton	<a href="http://www.tsb.co.uk/current-accounts/cash-account/">www.tsb.co.uk/current-accounts/cash-account/</a>
	Classic Account	No Monthly fee	Visa Debit Card  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£10 up to £5000  £17.50 over £5000	£2 up to £100 - EU  £7 over £100 - Int		<a href="http://www.tsb.co.uk/current-accounts/classic-account/">www.tsb.co.uk/current-accounts/classic-account/</a>

	<b>Basic Current Account</b> (Must set up in branch)	No Monthly fee	<b>Top-up Debit Card, Cash Card</b>  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£15 - EU £25 - Int	Free - EU Free - Int	NTU, Student Services Centre, Newton Building, Burton Street, NG1 4BU	<a href="http://www.santander.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/basic-current-account">www.santander.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/basic-current-account</a>
	<b>Essentials Current Account</b> (can set up online)	£1 per month	<b>Contactless Debit Card</b>  Online, telephone, branch and Mobile Banking	£15 - EU £25 - Int	Free - EU Free - Int	36 Clumber St, NG1 3GB	<a href="http://www.santander.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/essentials-current-account">www.santander.co.uk/personal/current-accounts/essentials-current-account</a>

## COMMON BANKING TERMS

- Cash Card** A cash card enables you to withdraw money from an ATM/cashpoint.
- Cash-back** Some supermarkets or shops allow you to get cash-back when you buy your groceries. They will give you cash from the till by adding the amount to your total shopping bills paid by debit card.
- Cheque Book** You can use a cheque to pay for some goods and services. You will usually need a cheque guarantee card when you pay by cheque.
- Contactless cards** A number of banks now offer contactless cards which allow you to pay for small purchases (usually up to £30) by tapping the machine in the shop without needing to enter a PIN number or sign for the purchase. Look for this logo:
- Debit Card** You can use a debit card to pay for goods and services. Debit cards are accepted in nearly all places, including for online payments. Debit cards can also be used in ATMs and are usually used as cheque guarantee cards too.
- Direct debit** This is where you sign an agreement for a company to directly debit your account, usually on a monthly basis. This is often used to pay utility and phone bills.
- Interest** A charge for borrowing money, or a reward for saving money. It is usually shown as a percentage of the money borrowed or saved.
- Standing order** This is where you instruct the bank to make regular payments on your behalf (e.g. paying your rent to your landlord)
- Overdraft** This facility allows you to spend more money than you have in your account. The bank will usually charge you interest if this happens and sometimes other fees as well. Check with them before you use this facility as it can be very expensive.
- ID** Identity.