



10 FINANCIAL TIPS FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

1

Prepare for your arrival

Opening an account as an expat requires some extra steps. Do your research, talk with a trusted advisor, or even contact a local bank branch to learn more about how you can financially prepare for your arrival to college as an international student.

2

Establish and manage your budget

Understand your essential expenses and your sources of income before treating yourself to luxuries—budget some extra spending money as living in the Bay Area can be expensive.

3

Know your currency exchange rates

Before committing to converting your currency, do your research to ensure you get the best deal.

4

Get access to a local bank

Find a bank that's accessible to you! This bank should be conveniently located to your day-to-day activities with nearby ATM's to quickly pull out cash to avoid fees.

5

Use your bank's ATM's

Using another bank's ATM often incurs fees to take out cash. Save your money by staying within your bank's ATM network.

6

Cash is king

Always try to carry at least \$10 - \$20 in cash wherever you go! There are many places in Berkeley, like restaurants, that won't take card payments or will charge a fee to use a card.

7

Conduct your banking needs digitally

You may need quick access to your bank account on the go. Make sure your bank has mobile and online banking features.

8

“There's an app for that!”

Download an app to easily transfer money with zero to limited fees. Consider using Zelle® which is located in many bank's mobile apps and is free to use. There are also services like Venmo®.

These services allow for an easy way to pay friends back without settling-up with cash and coins.

9

Pay bills before they are due

Late fees are costly and quickly add up. Protect your money by setting up recurring and automatic payments to avoid late fees.

10

Start building your credit

Having a solid credit score will assist you on things like applying for your first apartment or getting approved for a loan. There are many entry level credit cards out there, but do your research—some cards offer unique perks.

