Restaurants

If you really want to save money, consider dining out a luxury. Maybe treat yourself once a week to a restaurant of your choice, but eating out several times a week adds up – fast! Portions in London are much smaller which leads to the ordering of more food, which pushes the bill higher and higher. When traveling outside of London, dining out is the only option, so make sure to look up the prices before you go.

Total spent at restaurants: $500

Miscellaneous

This category was a combination of things that didn’t fit into the others. So anything I spent money on such as medicine (go to Boots Pharmacy), the London Eye, and even laundry went in this category. Spend money wisely, this category has the potential to lump so many things together that seem necessary at the time, be careful and responsible!

Total miscellaneous: $175
It’s affordable- Trust me

Study Abroad is an amazing experience that every student should be able to attend. The most common reason why a student does not study abroad is the cost. Unfortunately, the program cost is set in stone, however the money spent there varies for everyone. I am living proof that you can have an amazing experience on a budget!

Total travel cost: $1,874

How To Budget

WellSpent was an amazing App I used to track every penny (or pence) I spent while traveling abroad. This app enables you to create categories such as groceries, restaurants, travel, and shopping. These categories help you keep you budget in place and allow you to see exactly how much you are spending since the App totals it for you.

Travel

Websites such as EasyJet and RyanAir were great affordable ways to find flights from London to my travel destinations. While abroad, I traveled to Belgium, Spain, Croatia, Netherlands, and France. These websites were my go-to for affordable travel. Make sure to use a private browser to check flight prices, these sites record your frequency to the website and can bump the prices up once they detect that you’re interested. HostelWorld is a great source for booking hostels while traveling, but make sure to read the reviews. Air B&B is another great resource where you can rent a person’s apartment for the weekend and are guaranteed your own space if hostel living isn’t for you.

Total spent on groceries: $880

Groceries

While in London, keep in mind that there are different types of grocery stores. For a one-stop everything you need store that has the best prices go to Sainsbury’s. They are located all over London and will have everything you need, including some American brands. If you are picky about your produce, go to Waitrose, they are pricy but you get what you pay for. Lastly, if you NEED American food and a European duplicate will not suffice, go to Partridges. They have all the American guilty pleasures including cereal, mac and cheese, popcorn, and hot sauce. Treat yourself at Partridges, but don’t do all your shopping there. The importation of the food increases the price a lot.