

# Living Expenses

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Expense	Approx. cost per month
FOOD	€250
TRAVEL (using Travel Card)	€100
CLOTHES/MEDICAL	€45
MOBILE PHONE	€20
SOCIAL LIFE/MISCELLANEOUS	€130
TOTAL	€545

Source:- [http://www.icosirl.ie/eng/student\\_information/cost\\_of\\_living.html](http://www.icosirl.ie/eng/student_information/cost_of_living.html)

## How much will I need to spend on food?

For food, including some meals bought in casual restaurants, you will probably spend between €70 - €100 a week on these items.

## How much on average will I have to spend on transport?

The cost of an average journey on a bus in Dublin is about €2.05 per journey and will depend on the number of fare stages travelled. Exact money is needed - no change is given. Weekly and monthly [Dublin Bus](#) passes will save money for regular travel. Stint will provide you with a Leap Card (travel card) on arrival.

Many students also cycle in Dublin and there are lanes dedicated to bicycles only on some roads. Cycling in the city centre can be quite intimidating, particularly at peak times. Many cyclists choose to wear a cycle helmet, although this is not a legal requirement. You can avail of the [Dublin Bike Scheme](#) which costs €20 sign up fee (yearly) and journey's under 30 minutes are free!

## Is socialising in Dublin expensive?

Cinema tickets cost between €7 to €12 depending on what time and where you see the film. Student discounts are usually available during the week on production of a student card, but most cinemas do not offer student rates at the weekend and there is no discount at the expensive soft-drink and snack counters!

Entrance fees to nightclubs generally vary between €7 and €15 depending on the venue,

On average, a pint of beer in Dublin costs about €5 and a glass of wine costs about €6. However, prices can vary quite significantly between bars.

If cigarettes are part of your lifestyle, you are likely to find them expensive in Ireland at around €10 for a packet of 20. There is a ban on smoking in any workplace, which means that it is prohibited to smoke in bars and restaurants.

### **How can I make my budget stretch further?**

**Food:** Supermarkets offer the best value for most, but not all, ordinary groceries. Street markets, e.g. on Moore Street and Camden Street in Dublin offer the best value in fruit and vegetables if you choose carefully, while meat is usually cheapest in butchers' shops. Supermarkets have "own brand" food, e.g. St Bernard's in Dunnes. These are cheaper than regular brands and are usually of good quality. Shops such as Aldi and Lidl offer cheaper goods than the other supermarkets. They often have bulk buy bargains, which are handy if a group of people go shopping together and the cost can be split for items like rice, pasta etc. Convenience foods and ready-made foods are not as nutritious as fresh foods. So although they may appear cheaper and easier to cook, in the long run, they are not good value. When cooking for yourself, you could cook a little extra and have it for lunch the next day- much cheaper than eating out or buying a sandwich. It is a good idea to buy extra packets of basic foods that last, e.g. rice, pasta, beans and spices.

**Clothes:** Shops vary greatly in price so it is best to shop around. Best value is likely to be found in Penney's (Primark), Dunnes Stores, Guiney's (especially for household items like sheets, duvets etc.), and the shops in the Henry Street/Mary Street/Talbot Street/North Earl Street/Parnell Street area. In order to keep warm, it is often more effective to wear a few layers of clothes, e.g. a few T-shirts rather than one heavy jumper. Thermal underwear is extremely effective against cold and is widely available in many of the shops mentioned above. It is advisable to avoid buying clothes labelled 'dry clean only' as these may be expensive to take care of. There are also a number of second-hand clothes shops located around the city, in Rathmines, on South Great George's Street, Wexford Street, Camden Street and in Temple Bar. If you look carefully, you may find good value, especially for more expensive items like coats. In addition there are a number of charity shops such as Oxfam, Enable Ireland, St. Vincent de Paul located throughout Dublin and Ireland.

**Transport and travel:** If you plan on travelling by public transport, it is advisable to use a Leap Card (Stint will provide this on arrival). [Weekend Student Adventures](#) offer low cost and safe travel options specifically for student travellers-they also offer a Stint discount!

## How can I claim tax back on items I purchased in Ireland?

**Cash back/Tax-Free Shopping:** Non-EU/Non-EEA visitors to Ireland may be entitled to tax-free shopping on some goods being taken home, especially those purchased through department stores, provided they have been purchased within the final two months of the stay. Refunds can be obtained via the Cashback system at the airport before leaving Ireland. The scheme requires that you get a form stamped by a participating merchant at the time of purchase. This should then be kept safe until the day of your departure.

Further information on tax-free shopping is available at most department stores or from [Global Blue](#)