

SEMESTER BUDGET

| | | AMOUNT (\$) | |
|------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| RESOURCES | Savings | | |
| | Wages/Salary (x4) | | |
| | Student Loan and/or grant | | |
| | Family contribution | | |
| | Other regular monthly income (x 4) | | |
| | SEMESTER RESOURCES | | |

| EXPENSES | NECESSITIES OF LIFE | EDUCATION | Tuition | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|--|---|------------------------|--|
| | | | Books/Supplies | | |
| | | | FOOD (Plus other grocery store items) x 4 | | |
| | | | HOUSING | Rent/Mortgage x 4 | |
| | | | UTILITIES | Hydro x 4 | |
| | | | | Telephone x4 | |
| | | | | Gas x 4 | |
| | | | | Cable TV x 4 | |
| | | | | Internet x 4 | |
| | | | LAUNDRY and HOUSEHOLD SUPPLIES | | |
| | | | TRANSPORTATION | Bus Pass x 4 | |
| | | | | Car lease payments x 4 | |
| | | | | Insurance x 4 | |
| | | | | Gasoline x 4 | |
| | | Parking x 4 | | | |
| | | Maintenance | | | |
| | | MSP/PRESCRIPTIONS | | | |
| | | DENTAL/OPTICAL | | | |
| | | CHILDCARE/SCHOOL & ACTIVITIES COSTS | | | |
| | | NECESSITIES OF HAPPINESS | RESTURANTS | | |
| | | | ALCOHOL/ CIGARETTES | | |
| | | | ENTERTAINMENT | | |
| | | | GIFTS | | |
| | | | TRAVEL/HOLIDAYS | | |
| | | | CLOTHING | | |
| | | | PETS | | |
| | | | OTHER | | |
| | | | | | |
| | | | | | |
| | SEMESTER EXPENSES | | | | |

In an ideal world SEMESTER RESOURCES = SEMESTER EXPENSES

INCLUDE ALL EXPENSES: School Expenses: Tuition, textbooks, supplies and related materials, lab fees, library fees, photocopying, etc. Food and Groceries: Groceries, eating out, snacks, etc. Living Expenses: Rent, electricity, gas, phone, cell/pager, internet, cable, etc. Children: child care, school expenses, clothes, supplies, etc. Professional Fees: Doctor, dentist, eye care, hair stylist, chiropractor, etc. Entertainment and Travel: Going out, movies, movie rental, CD's/DVD's, concerts, travel, etc. Clothing: Purchases, cleaning, repairs, laundry, etc. Loans: Personal, credit cards, etc. Personal Toiletries: Hair care products (shampoo etc), body care products ("feminine hygiene," razors etc), facial care products (make-up etc), prescription drugs/vitamins, etc. Transportation: Bus pass, car payments, gas/oil, visits home, insurance, maintenance, etc. Miscellaneous: Membership dues, postage, health club, christmas gifts, birthday gifts.

*** This budget is for personal planning. Please note that for Langara College bursary applications "Necessities of Happiness" are not usually considered



10 Tips for Budgeting

1. Review your resources and explore all possible ways to pay for your school costs (tuition, books, etc) and living expenses while studying. Talk to family, friends, visit the Langara College Financial Aid office or the [website \(www.langara.bc.ca\)](http://www.langara.bc.ca), Financial Aid link) to see what funding may be available to you. **2.** Make a financial plan for the semester. Be accurate and realistic. **3.** Break your budget down to months and weeks. **4.** Overestimate your expenses. Monitor and review all expenditures. **5.** Look ahead – put money aside for emergencies and budget revisions. **6.** Allow for the cost of some recreation and entertainment. **7.** Don't use credit cards unless it is absolutely necessary. **8.** Keep an accurate file of all receipts and expenses.

Tips for Saving Money

Textbooks Buy used books and resell your books at the end of the term through the Langara Student Union and the bookstore. Check out prices from online bookstores and on notice boards around the school. Check out the library for copies of the book, especially recommended texts. Share the cost of textbooks with friends if possible.

Groceries Make a grocery-shopping list to avoid making unnecessary purchases. Don't buy food at convenience stores. Bring your lunch to school and use the Student Union microwaves. Try to eat a well-balanced diet; medical bills and being sick could cost you more than good food. Look through newspapers for coupons and specials. Shop at a couple of different stores to get the best prices. Plan a weekly menu before shopping. Don't waste money on prepared foods. Instead, prepare meals ahead of time and freeze them. Buy in bulk. Avoid shopping for food when you're hungry; you'll buy more.

Health/Beauty Go to the Langara College clinic. Reduced cost dental work is available at the UBC School of Dentistry http://www.dentistry.ubc.ca/dental_clinic/, REACH Community Medical and Dental Clinic on Commercial Dr. (604-254-1331), and at Vancouver Community College (604-443-8499). Ask for generic prescription drugs. Check your MSP payments and PharmaCare program and make sure you are getting the discounts that you are eligible for: <http://www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca>. Use your LSU Medical/Dental plan, if eligible. Go to a beauty school for bargains on haircuts, etc.

Transportation Take public transit, bicycle or walk as much as possible.

Communication Try letters and email instead of expensive long distance calls. Use phone cards for long distance calls, but watch out for monthly, activation, and maintenance fees, and for expiry dates. Make long distance calls in off peak hours or on-line for cheaper rates. Talk online for free.

Utilities Limit your use of electricity (turn off lights, reduce opening the fridge). Put on an extra sweater to warm up rather than using a heater. Get rid of that "1,000 mega-channel lineup," and switch to basic cable, or no cable at all.

Activities and Entertainment Enjoy free activities on campus, or at local parks, libraries or galleries. Look for cheap activities at the Student Union and Langara Gym. Attend movies at repertory movie theatres, cheap matinees or on Tuesdays. Borrow books and videos from the library. Brew your own beer or wine. Drink at home with friends. It's safer and cheaper than going out. Volunteer at fairs, festivals and sporting events and get free or discount admission. Don't purchase snacks at movie theatres. Make your own gifts for people.

Restaurants Look for coupons in the Georgia Straight, Vancouver Courier, and other local newspapers. Look for and ask about daily specials. Even cheaper than lunch is breakfast. Split an order with a friend. Drink water instead of ordering a drink. Order regular instead of pricey specialty coffees.

Pet care SPCA clinics may offer lower prices. Always seek a second opinion when a vet suggests a pricey procedure. Shop around for medicines, online and locally.

General Ask for student discounts. Keep a record and receipts of all your bank transactions, purchases and other transactions. Keep warranty documents. Use a line of credit instead of credit cards and especially avoid department-store credit cards that have very high interest rates. Always send in for the rebate on a purchase. Check your receipt for mistakes.