

Debt

The University of Manchester does not possess a debt licence therefore we are unable to provide specific advice about debt. However there are several Debt Management organisations that can provide you with advice and guidance and, most importantly, don't charge for their services.

What are the different types of debt?

Debts fall into two categories: priority and non-priority.

Priority debts MUST ALWAYS BE PAID FIRST!

Different debts attract different penalties in the event of defaulting on your repayments.

PRIORITY DEBTS: OUTCOMES

Rent arrears	Bailiffs/eviction
Mortgage	Repossession
Council Tax	Bailiffs/Imprisonment, Attachment of earnings order
Unpaid fines	Imprisonment
Gas/Electricity	Placed on a key/card meter charged at a higher rate

NON-PRIORITY DEBTS: OUTCOMES

Water Rates	Repayment plan/County Court Judgement (CCJ)
Telephone	Disconnection
Credit debts	Difficulty obtaining credit

I have a debt with the University – who can I speak to?

If your debt is to the University (e.g. tuition fees or accommodation), please contact our Credit Control department on 0161 275 8130 or email self.funding@manchester.ac.uk. For additional advice you can also speak to the Students' Union Advice Service regarding a University debt. Please visit: <https://manchesterstudentsunion.com/contact-advisor>

Payday Loans

Please see our Scams and Risks factsheet for further advice regarding payday loans:

www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/scams-risks/

Who can I get help from?

The following Debt Advice and Guidance Organisations can provide specialist advice and guidance:

- Step Change Debt Charity - www.stepchange.org/
- Citizens' Advice Bureau - www.citizensadvice.org.uk/

- Debt Advice Foundation - www.debtadvicefoundation.org/
- Institute of Money Advisers - www.i-m-a.org.uk/
- National Debtline - www.nationaldebtline.org/
- The Money Helper - www.moneyhelper.org.uk
- The Money Charity - <http://themoneycharity.org.uk/>

Note: Some Debt Management Companies provide free advice at first, but charge later depending on the solution provided. We would advise you avoid private Debt Management Companies as there is free help and advice available.

Tips

- Try using Money Saving Experts demotivator tool to work out how much those little extras cost over time: www.moneysavingexpert.com/shopping/demotivator/
- Reduce temptation by avoiding unnecessary credit cards
- See our Budgeting and Bills factsheets for further guidance: www.studentsupport.manchester.ac.uk/finances/a-z/
- Don't ignore a problem – it will only make things worse
- Keep in touch with the people you owe money to – the more they know, the more they can help.

Useful Links

- Money Saving Expert for general advice and guidance www.moneysavingexpert.com/
- The Samaritans for advice if debt is affecting your wellbeing www.samaritans.org/

We have made every effort to ensure that the information contained in this leaflet is accurate however, we cannot be held responsible for any omissions or errors.