Introduction

Title: Student Living Expenses in Exeter

context:

The Student Living Expenses in Exeter is a survey that takes up to 5 minutes. Questions are asked of the students who are currently studying at university about how much pound they spend per month. This survey not only goes through basic questions about living expenses, but also delves more deeply into the topic. which I once wished to know as a new student. The collected data can be used to find the average living expenses for students of the University of Exeter in each sector.

motivation:

This coursework topic arises from my personal experience as a student while I decided to study at Exeter. the more important question I had was what the living expenses are for a student in Exeter per month. and due to that question, I searched on university websites, Reddit, YouTube and other websites. I got mixed answers and opinions. that experience was the reason behind my coursework topic, "student living expenses in Exeter", and I also wanted to do it as a real project.

expected outcomes:

- At the end of this coursework survey, we can get a dataset of Living Expenses that can be used
- To predict the cost of living as a student in Exeter per year for every gender.
- The yearly survey output can be used to predict the difference in spending in each year.
- Nationality-based spending among the students because in food, every country has their own food habits.

Data Visualisation Research section:

1) Exeter Students' Guild-Cost of Living Report-University of Exeter Data

link: https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/61a79279a92cd67f7b6019ac/6657228f9e379a784e9f09b8_Cost%20of%20Living%20Report%20-%20University%20of%20Exeter%20Data.pdf

important insights of the survey

- 94% of students are concerned about the cost of living crisis
- Monthly income after accommodation is 2 pounds per week
- 1 out of 4 students is regularly going without food
- 1 in 5 considers dropping out due to finances

Refer to Diagrams & charts in:

- image of page 9 "Cost of living impact"
- image of page 10 "I have reduced the amount of socialising I do"
- image of page 11 "My academic performance has suffered due to the cost of living crisis", "I have considered dropping out of university because I could not afford to continue"
- image of page 14 "I regularly go without food or necessities because I cannot afford them"
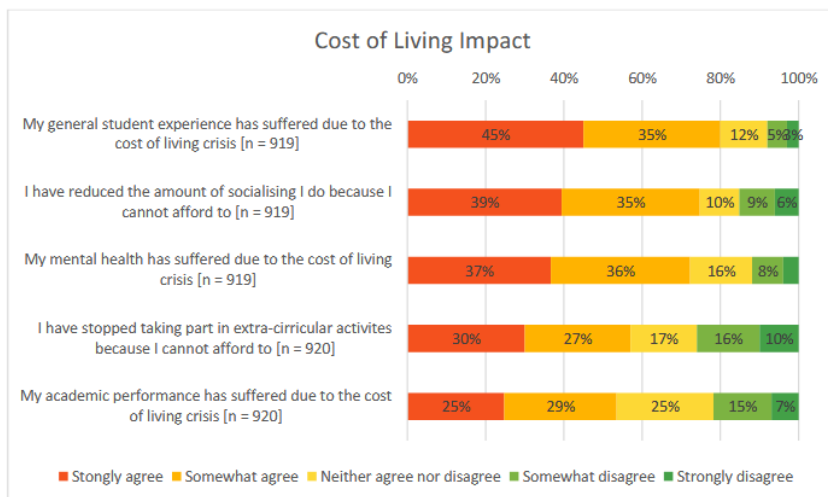- page 15 "My mental health has suffered due to the cost of living crisis"

Figure 3: Stacked bar graph showing responses to Likert-scale questions on the impact of the cost of living crisis

Context: This image shows how much the cost of living impacts different categories from the students guild survey.

2)Save the Student – National Student Money Survey 2025
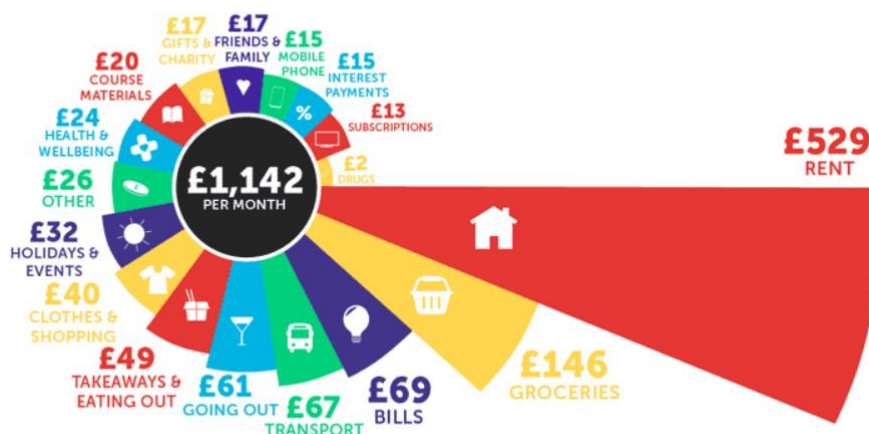
link: https://www.savethestudent.org/money/surveys/student-money-survey-2025-results.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com#spend

important insights of the survey

- The average spending of surveyed students is 1142 pounds per month
- varies among the regions of the UK
- 61% of students skip meals to save money
- 41% have considered dropping out because of money issues

Refer to Diagrams & charts in:

- Image 1: "How do students get money?"
- image 2: "How much do students spend?"

Context: this image states how much students spend in each category

Public Good:

This survey will

- help students understand the cost of living in Exeter as a student.
- help students prepare for the necessary funds to study at University of Exeter.
- can know about the income of students and how they manage their money.
- can know how the students' mental health is related to the cost of living
- can know how much a student needs for a month for food, rent, clothing, etc.,
- Surveying with students each year can be used to know the difference in cost of living each year by comparing the data from each year.
- help universities and policymakers to take steps to reduce student poverty and help them to improve mental well-being.

Data Description

The data that is going to be collected is regarding

- student nationality, student gender, accommodation type, student fund, student course, part-time job/internships are text and categorical data.
- year of graduation, age, cost per month, grocery per month, Bills per month, transport per month, clothes and shopping per month, income per month, medicine, rent and others. are numerical data
- and a few satisfaction data that will numerical format.

Data Collection

- Data will be collected from the university students and alumni. via Google Forms or else a page on the university website, a survey that consists of 15 - 20 questions, which will take approximately 10 minutes to finish.
- The questions will cover most of the areas of the cost of living.
- Most of the questions will be multiple choice and numerical, with some user inputs.

Data Storage and Security

- The data sets that are obtained from the survey are stored in a MySQL database. After surveying the data is exported as a .csv file and stored on the university's website for further studies.
- So even though csv file is destroyed, the backup will be inside the university database.

Data management, documentation and curation

- Data management: The data will be managed in a MySQL database.
- Documentation and curation: There will be a README file. saying about each column with a description, from which question the value is derived, and the year the data was collected.
- file name: file will be named by the name " livingcost_response_" with version(v1_) and date(30102025). This is the sample file name "livingcost_response_v1_30102025.csv"

Data preservation

The final data after analysis will be stored in the university's GitHub repository or database, which is managed by the university.

Data Sharing and Access

After the data is cleaned and made ready for the analysis, it can be licensed by the university under CC BY 4.0 for educational use by future students.

Ethics and privacy

No personal data is derived from the individuals, so there are no privacy-related issues.

Relevant policies

- *University of Exeter Research Ethics Framework*
  Link:
  https://www.exeter.ac.uk/v8media/universityofexeter/governanceandcompliance/researchethicsandgovernance/Revised_UoE_Research_Ethics_Framework_v1.2_111120221_for_publishing.pdf

- Data Protection Act 2018
  link: https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2018/12/contents

- General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
  link: https://gdpr-info.eu/

  This research follows the University of Exeter Research Ethics Framework and the UK Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). All details are collected from individuals with their own consent and anonymously, with no personal identity (like name, ID, or Email) recorded. Prior consent will be asked of the participants by explaining the purpose of the study.

  All the data will be securely stored inside the university and used only for academic analysis.

Survey questions:

participant Consent

The participation in this survey is completely voluntary and anonymous. The responses given by you will be used to analyse the cost of living as a student in Exeter. This survey is handled according to the Data Protection Act 2018 of the UK, GDPR, and the University of Exeter Research Ethics Framework. It will take up to 5-10 minutes to answer all questions. You can participate in the survey by providing 'yes'. If not, 'no' can be selected.

options

- Yes
- No

The survey questions

1) Do you consider yourself a student with a disability, long-term health condition or specific learning difference?

options:

- Yes
- No

 2)What type of student are you?

options

- UK/Home student
- International student
- EU student
- Exchange or visiting student
- Distance/online learner
- prefer not to say

3)Please enter your nationality

options

- (input)
- prefer not to say

4)What is the Current level of study?

options

- Undergraduate
- Postgraduate Taught
- Postgraduate Research
- prefer not to say

5) What is the duration of your course?

Options

- 1 year

- 2 years
- 3 years
- 4 years
- 5 years or more

6) What is your gender identity?

options

- Man
- woman
- Non-binary
- prefer to self-describe: (input)
- prefer not to say

7) What is your accommodation type?

options

- On-campus (university-managed)
- Off-campus (university-managed)
- private student halls
- private rented
- Family/home

8) Who is funding the living expenses?

options

- funded by family
- education loans
- part-time job/internships
- staying with family
- not mentioned above (input)
- prefer not to say

9) What is the per-month income (average) if you are doing a part-time job/internship?

options

- income (input)
- not doing a part-time job/internship
- prefer not to say

10) What is the income if family or an education loan funds you?

option

- income (input)
- part-time job/internship
- staying with family
- prefer not to say

11) What is your age?

options

- Under 18
- 18 -23
- 24 -29
- 30 -34
- 35-40
- 41 and above
- prefer not to say

12) What is the cost of living (average) per month (summing up all expenses)?

options

- staying with family
- less than £600
- £600-£800
- £801-£1000
- £1001-£1200
- £1201-£1500
- over £1500
- prefer not to say

13) What is the average cost spent on groceries per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £200
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

14) What is the average spending for housing utility Bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £200
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

15) What is the average spending for internet and communication Bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £200
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

16) What is the mode of travel you prefer when going to university?

options

- walking
- bicycle
- motorcycle
- car
- public transport
- prefer not to say

17) What are the average transport and travel Bills per month for going to university?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £200
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

18)What is the average spending for transport and travel Bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £200
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

19)What is the average spending for entertainment and subscription bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £20
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

20)What is the average spending for clothes and shopping bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £20
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

21)What is the average spending for medicine bills per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £20
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

22)What is the average spending for other things apart from the asked questions per month?

options

- staying with family
- less than £100
- £101- £20
- £201- £300
- £301- £400
- £401- £500
- over £500
- not spending
- prefer not to say

23) What is the type of catering in your accommodation?

options

- staying with family
- self-catered
- catered
- prefer not to say

24) What is the type of room in your accommodation?

options

- staying with family
- standard
- En-suite
- Studio
- Couples

25) What is the rent per month in your accommodation?

options

- staying with family
- less than £600
- £600-£800
- £801-£1000
- £1001-£1200
- £1201-£1500
- over £1500
- prefer not to say

26) Can you able to manage the expenses per month with the income or funds you have received from sources?
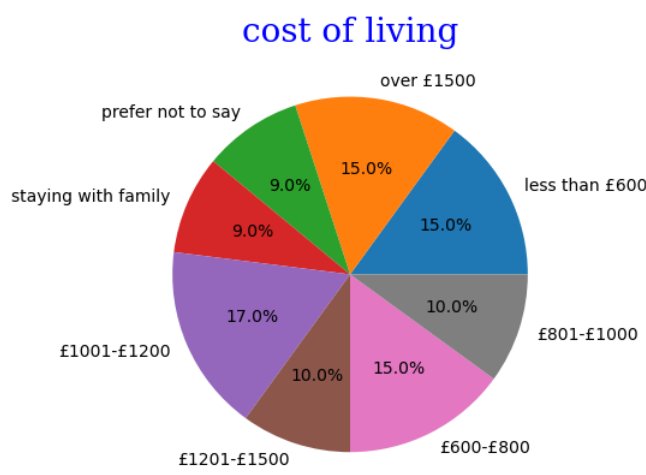
options

- Very well
- Fairly well
- Sometimes difficult
- often difficult
- very difficult
- prefer not to say

27) Does sharing with friends in accommodation reduce the cost of living?

options

- Very well
- Fairly well
- Sometimes difficult
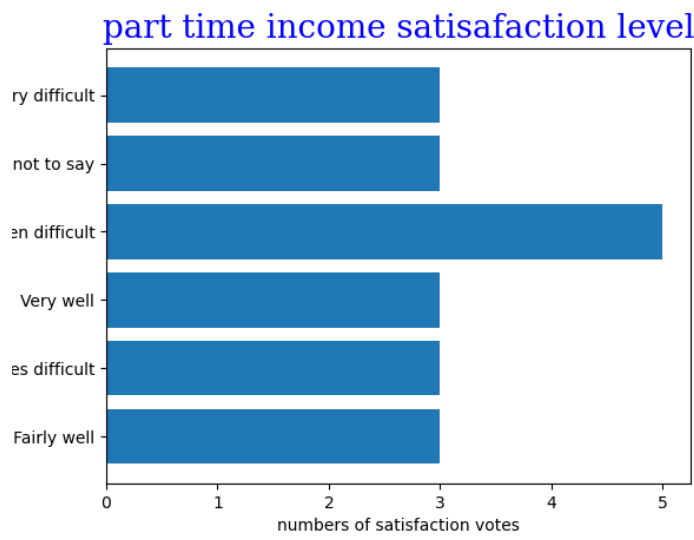- often difficult
- very difficult
- prefer not to say

Figure1:

cost of living

Caption: This figure displays the cost of living for students and the average monthly expenditure of the majority of students.

Explanation: The pie chart says that from the simulated student data, 17% of students spend 1001-1200 pounds per month. And a minimum of 9% students are living with their families. This chart provides a clear indication of the number of pounds a student needs to live in Exeter.
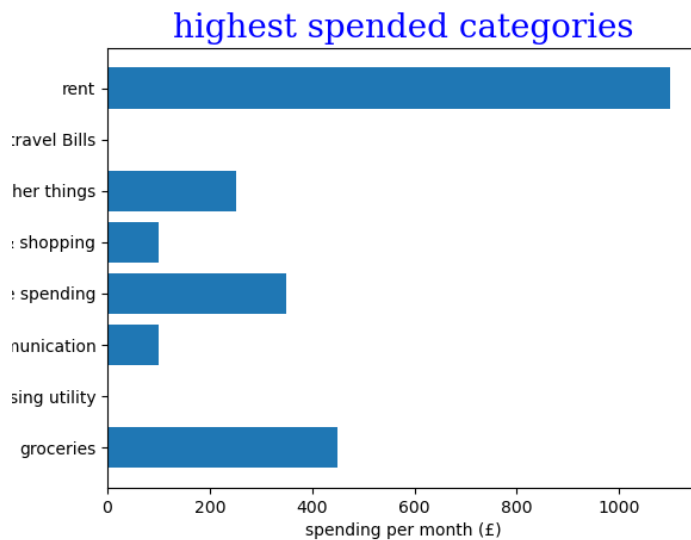
Figure2:

part time income satisafaction level

Caption: This figure displays how much students can manage their expenses using income from part-time jobs.

Axis: The X axis says about the satisfaction number of students, and the Y axis says the criteria (Very well, Fairly well, Sometimes difficult, often difficult, very difficult, prefer not to say)

Explanation: This horizontal bar chart clearly visualises that most of the students often find it difficult to manage their monthly spending using the income from their part-time jobs.

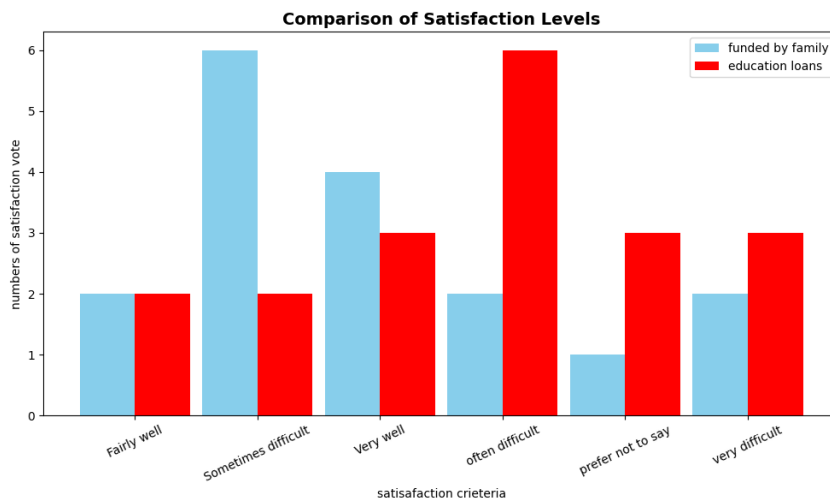**Figure3:**

highest spended categories

Caption: This chart shows how much students spend on different categories of living expenses.

Axis: X-axis displays the spending per month by students in pounds, and the Y-axis shows the various categories like rent, travel bills, other things, clothes and shopping. Medicine spending, internet and communication, housing utilities, groceries.

Explanation: According to this chart, we can see that the students spend their money on rent and groceries. And a minimum amount for travel and housing utilities.

Figure4:

Caption: This bar chart shows a comparison of the satisfaction level of students who are funded by their family and education loans

Axis and bars: The X axis shows satisfaction criteria (Very well, Fairly well, Sometimes difficult, often difficult, very difficult, prefer not to say), and the Y axis shows the number of votes. The blue colour bar shows the funding by family satisfaction level, and the red bar shows the funding by education loan students' satisfaction level.

Explanation: This chart shows that the students who are funded by education loans often find it difficult to manage their cost of living, and students funded by family students fell sometimes difficult.

Record of AI Prompts / Output links

1)What type of accommodation is for students in Exeter

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c8066e448191a83d10feebbfd3a8

2)is there any similar data in real life, in students' living expenses in a city or at else university

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c8446fc08191a69ed1b8e6ca7f68

3)i meant research or colllecting data

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c86fc3f48191a293780cf4db9f62

4)only give me similar research papers

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c895060481919fb96712ace78fb1

5)does any other study or survey was made in university of exeter regarding this topic of syudent living expense

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c8c30530819180c752a978fe0da5

6)Data standards explain

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c906520c81918086ab415576d4a3

7)best way to licence an dataset

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c924de908191bcf918e405efa95c

8)best method to encode data in python

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c94eedd88191b0f844c4b2c9aa70

9)explain the University of Exeter Research Ethics Framework and UK Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR principles regarding consent, anonymity, and secure data handling.

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c9c030ac819188c11836b012cdf5

10)UK Data Protection Act 2018 and GDPR Principles can you give me the link

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907c9f08e148191b6c0f13d64cebcef

11)what are all the type of students like internatiional studdentd and etc,

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907ca2a09ac81919015d68dd95ad821

12)can i get the nationality of the user according to the rules and regulation

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907ca594f948191874c05b5ae741851

13)what is the range rent per month in your accommodation

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cac49dbc8191a292bce6160c52aa

14)How much money does a part-time job for student will pay per month min to max

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cb41fe408191b1af7e3761896a2b

15)do you have any idea similar to pie chart

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cb7e0e308191927a152a9fcc2213

16)setting an array element with a sequence. The requested array has an inhomogeneous shape after 1 dimensions. The detected shape was (100,) + inhomogeneous part. what is this error

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cbe2ba2481919e7897487df72563

17)analyse this file entirely i will ask any doubts if i want

link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cc67a344819187c8c6dfff1afc5e

18)in context.pdf what is that data visualization realy means

Link: https://chatgpt.com/s/t_6907cd54905c8191b483fbb19ef4cd31