

## This is what your tuition fees actually get spent on

Lucy Skoulding - 23 November 2018 Updated 14 December 2022

Research by the Higher Education Policy Institute (HEPI) revealed exactly where your tuition fees get spent – and it's far from just the cost of teaching you. With tuition now costing as much as £9,250 per year for many students, it's only natural to wonder what that money is spent on. And, surprise, surprise, it doesn't all go to teaching! Universities have many costs, including management, advertisement, university buildings, and more. While it differs per university, we've taken a look at some of them to give you a general idea of where tuition fees actually get spent.

### How do universities spend tuition fees?

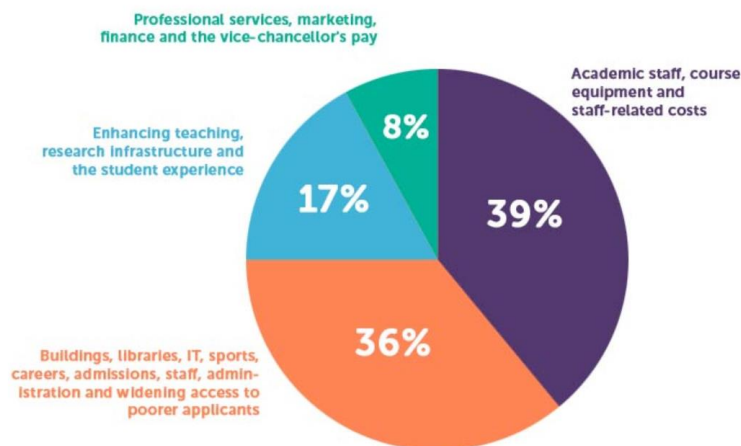
In 2018, around 45% of the funds generated from each student's £9,250 annual tuition fees in England was spent on the cost of teaching. The remaining funds were spent on other necessary expenses. This includes things like buildings, technology and libraries, university administration, welfare support such as mental health services, and spending on the students' union.

According to the 2018 HEPI report, very few students (less than 20%) wanted their money to be spent on management staff, recruitment of students, advertising, or community work. Nonetheless, around 20% of funds were spent on these areas.

Contrastingly, over 60% of students believed that paying for teaching facilities and teaching staff is a "reasonable use" for the money raised by their tuition fees. That said, the report estimated that UK institutions only spent 45% of this income on teaching.

The remaining money collected was spent on a range of other services, including administration and infrastructure costs.

As a representative example, a breakdown of how tuition fees were spent by Nottingham Trent University was shared.



Figures for Nottingham Trent University (2018)

Academic staff, course equipment, and staff-related costs received 39% of the overall funds collected from fees. Other services and infrastructure, like buildings, libraries, IT services, sports facilities, careers help, admissions, employees, administration and welfare support received 36% of the fees. The university used 17% of the income for "enhancing teaching, research infrastructure, and the student experience". The remaining 8% was left for professional services such as marketing, finance, and the vice chancellor's pay packet.

Source : <https://www.savethestudent.org/news/what-tuition-fees-get-spent-on.html>