

So I thought that I'd first say a few words to help orientate you round the ⁽¹⁾ system. As new arrivals, one of the first things you'll want to do is open a bank ⁽²⁾. This will allow you to receive your money ⁽³⁾, pay your bills by direct ⁽⁴⁾ and all sorts of other things that will make your life easier.

One ⁽⁵⁾ think a lot of people make is to just wander into the first bank they see, thinking that all banks are much the same, and ask to open an account. In actual fact, they are ⁽⁶⁾ something slightly different, and some of the differences can affect you quite ⁽⁷⁾. For example, for those of you who are studying at the ⁽⁸⁾ here, you may have noticed that there are two or three banks with ⁽⁹⁾ near the university – Great Western and Moneysafe, for example – but only one – Finley's – actually has an ⁽¹⁰⁾ inside one of the university buildings. For the others, you'd have a bit more of a ⁽¹¹⁾

Some banks give away free ⁽¹²⁾. Evergreen offers a ⁽¹³⁾ to people who keep a ⁽¹⁴⁾ of more than £5,000 for nine months; with International Union, you'll get a ⁽¹⁵⁾ when you open your first account; and one or two others, like Moneysafe and Northern Star, offer mountain bikes or ⁽¹⁶⁾ cleaners if you put money on ⁽¹⁷⁾. That sort of thing

More seriously, you should look at the sort of ⁽¹⁸⁾ rates the bank will offer you, both if you need an ⁽¹⁹⁾ or loan, or if you're hoping to get some interest on your savings. At the moment, Northern Star offers the ⁽²⁰⁾ rate of interest to savers, but Great Western will lend money at a lower ⁽²¹⁾ than normal to people registered on higher education ⁽²²⁾. So you can see it really is worth looking around.

Another thing it's a good idea to enquire about are bank ⁽²³⁾. Again, they're not all the same. Some charge the same across the board, such as Evergreen, Finley's and Northern Star, but Moneysafe actually say that if you're in credit, your account won't ⁽²⁴⁾ a thing – though, just like the others, as soon as you go into the red, their prices become pretty ⁽²⁵⁾.