

Opening a Bank Account in the UK

There are many banks in the UK and they offer different levels of service. It is a good idea to research the bank, which will best serve your needs. There are online tools that compare banks / accounts such as www.moneysupermarket.com/current-accounts or www.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/en/articles/current-accounts

UK law requires banks to make checks on customers opening bank accounts to ensure that the account is not being falsely opened or operated. In the case of international students, banks will require proof of identity:

1. Passport / ID / visa
2. Proof of student's address in their home country
3. Proof of student's new address in the UK.
4. Proof of being a UEA student (request the letter from your Hub <https://portal.uea.ac.uk/learning-and-teaching/students/forms> and select letter requests)

For some banks, it may take up to 2-3 weeks to open an account. You should be prepared to support yourself financially during this initial period, through other means such as credit and debit cards / cash, but avoid carrying large amounts of cash with you and avoid keeping cash in your room for security reasons.

Make sure you notify the bank if you change your address, as they will stop sending statements to you if their statements are returned by the postal service.

There are also online banking options if you are not able to get an account at a UK high street bank or you are in the UK for less than 6 months. You can find out more at: www.unizest.co.uk

Further information and advice

Further information and advice is available from the Financial Advisers in the Student Support Centre: email fac@uea.ac.uk.

To book an appointment with an adviser, please come into the Student Support Service reception, or call 01603 592761 or email: studentsupport@uea.ac.uk

Alternatively, visit the UKCISA (UK Council for International Student Affairs) website at www.ukcisa.org.uk/Information--Advice/Living-in-the-UK/Opening-a-bank-account

If you change your address, or if your credit card/cash card is lost or stolen, you should contact your bank immediately.