

# Planning for university?



# How to keep your belongings protected

The Association of British Insurers provides its expert advice on the importance of ensuring that your belongings are protected whilst at university



Heading off to university is a huge step and there is lots to plan and prepare for – insurance can end up being

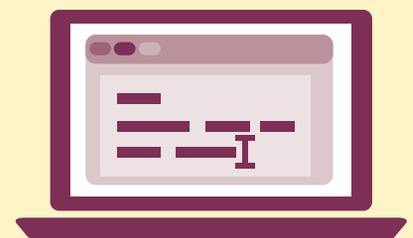
bottom of the list. The Association of British Insurers (ABI) advises students going off to university and those already studying, to make sure their possessions are properly protected from burglary, fire or accidental damage.

Statistics\* show students are around three times more likely to

be victims of a burglary than people in other age groups and they also own more expensive consumer goods than the rest of the population. According to the National Union of Students, the average value of student possessions is £2,600, with £1,200 for electronic items alone including laptops, phones and cameras.

There are a few easy steps that students and their parents, can take to make sure that student belongings are protected. Before going to university, make sure you:

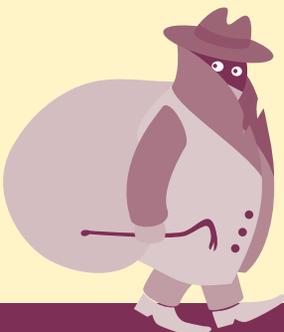
**MAKE SURE THAT YOU PROPERLY ESTIMATE HOW MUCH YOUR POSSESSIONS ARE WORTH BEFORE GETTING CONTENTS INSURANCE**



## DON'T SCRIMP ON CONTENTS INSURANCE

Even if money is short, don't try to save money by not getting insurance for your belongings. If belongings are damaged or stolen, it will cost money to replace them. Some policies can be specifically tailored to the needs of students but make sure that you shop around for the best deal by using a comparison website or visiting different insurers. Remember that if you share accommodation with other students, you should each take out your own contents policy. You may want to consider adding additional protection as part of your insurance. Accidental damage will cover your possessions if they get broken or if someone else damages them.

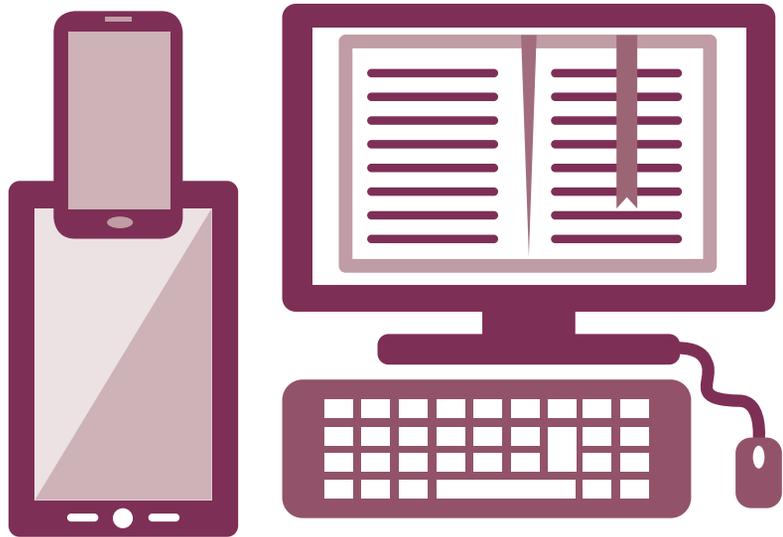
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**“Some policies can be specifically tailored to the needs of students but make sure that you shop around for the best deal by using a comparison website or visiting different insurers”**

### KNOW HOW MUCH YOUR BELONGINGS ARE WORTH

Make sure that you properly estimate how much your possessions are worth before getting contents insurance. Policies will have set limits on the size of any claims, so make sure the limits reflect the value of your possessions. Smaller items, like mobile phones, clothes and books, may seem insignificant but can be costly to replace. Some items, like cameras, bicycles or musical instruments may need to be listed separately.



### CHECK YOUR PARENTS' AND UNIVERSITY'S POLICY

Some insurers will add students to their parents' contents insurance but there may be restrictions. Check with your parent's insurer to find out if you are covered and what the policy covers. It is also worth checking with the university about any insurance they may be able to offer students.

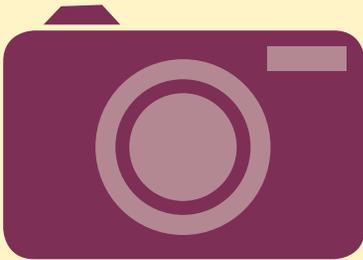
ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL UNION OF STUDENTS, THE AVERAGE VALUE OF STUDENT POSSESSIONS IS

**£2,600**

WITH

**£1,200**

FOR ELECTRONIC ITEMS ALONE INCLUDING LAPTOPS, PHONES AND CAMERAS



## TAKE NECESSARY SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Make sure you keep your doors and windows locked when you leave your house to prevent thieves getting in easily. Keep anything valuable in a place where it can't be easily seen. Consider security marking some of your more valuable items to make them less attractive to thieves and easier to identify if they are stolen. However, make sure that you check that security marking does not invalidate any manufacturers' guarantees or warranties.

## MAKE SURE YOU ARE COVERED IF YOU GO ABROAD

If you are going away, whether it is a trip with university, a holiday or a gap year, make sure that you take out travel insurance before you go and check that it covers you for any valuable belongings you may be taking with you or activities that may be part of your trip. For some expensive items, you may need to get contents or gadget insurance that covers you at home and abroad.



**“It is also worth checking with the university about any insurance they may be able to offer students”**

## DON'T BUY UNNECESSARY INSURANCE

Your student bank account may offer certain types of insurance, like travel and mobile phone insurance, as part of the package. Make sure that you know exactly what you are already covered for before buying any additional insurance.

Students should remember to take common sense measures to look after their possessions so they can ensure they are not left paying a high price if valuables are lost, stolen or damaged.

*Article courtesy of the Association of British Insurers (ABI). The ABI is the voice of the UK's insurance and long-term savings industry. It has over 250 members, who together account for around 90% of premiums in the UK domestic market. For further information, visit [www.abi.org.uk](http://www.abi.org.uk)*

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\* Home Office statistics at <http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/crime-victims/how-you-can-prevent-crime/student-safety/>