

Case Study 1

Sean

My name is Sean and I'm doing the Leaving Cert in a few months. It's going to be hard but I'm looking forward to the summer afterwards. I'm going to be pretty busy.

I'm lucky enough because I've been able to get a part-time job in the local shop. I'll be working from the beginning of July and the manager has said she can give me 20 hours a week at €8.65 per hour. She said that in August I'll be able to get 26 hours a week because a few staff will be on holidays. After September, though, I'll have to give up the job as I'll be moving to Dublin to go to college.

My parents also give me a tenner each week for pocket money but that doesn't go very far.

I've worked out what I think I'm going to be spending and it's a lot! Most weeks I'll buy lunches (€15), dinners out (€15), snacks (€10) and fizzy drinks (€5). I like my music and movies, so that will be about €40 every fortnight as well. The phone will take up at least €10 a week. I love the apps you can buy too, and will spend €5 every week. And that's all before I go out!

Apart from work, I've some other plans this summer. I'm going on a family holiday to Clifden in July for a week. My parents are paying for most of the trip as a 'well done' on finishing the Leaving. I'll only need about €150 spending money.

It's my girlfriends' birthday in August, so I'm going to have to put money aside for that. I want to bring her out and to get her a good present as well, so I'll definitely need at least €90 for that.

The big thing this summer, though, is the debts. I'll have been working for about nine weeks before the debts is on in September. I'll need tickets and a suit, which are the most expensive things. But I'll also need to pay for the limo, with four other lads. I'll also need to get the hair cut, pay for my girlfriend's corsage and get flowers for her mam. And obviously I'll need money for the night out and the taxi home. The hotel is far away, so that's going to cost.

After all that, there's not much time before I'll be heading to college. I'm guessing I'll need about €400 for that. I mean, I'll need rent money and cash for college books I suppose, but I don't really know how to save for that. I'll have to get a part-time job when I'm in college but I want to save a good bit of cash each week before I get there. The €400 will keep me going until I get a part-time job when in college but I want to save a bit of cash each week before I get there. Thing is, I'm not the best at saving. I think I'm spending about €80 every week, but I don't know where the money goes!

