

Top tips before buying a new car

A car is a big commitment, so we've broken down a range of options to help you weigh the pros and cons before making a decision.

- **What are the costs?** Consider all the costs: fuel, parking, maintenance, taxes, etc – there are [online calculators](#) to help.
- **Could I be greener?** Think about your full range of options before making a decision. The first question being *do I really need to buy a car?*

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Alternatives - greener, cheaper, healthier



Walking or cycling - A cheap alternative with big health benefits. Save 30% on the cost of a new bike with LSE's [cycle scheme](#), with a range of facilities on campus for cyclists.



Public transport - Compare the cost of public transport to the full cost of car ownership. Apply for LSE's [season ticket loan](#) to spread the cost over 12 months.



Car pooling and sharing - Explore car pooling through sites such as [BlaBlaCar](#) or [Liftshare](#). Or you can rent a car through [car club schemes](#) such as Zipcar which include electric cars.



I really need to buy a car

2

Greener car options

0 CO₂
per mile

Electric car - A higher purchase price but have very low running costs. Zero tailpipe emissions and a green tariff at home (try [Octopus agile](#)) make for a true zero emissions car.

Hybrid car - Typically consume less fuel and emit less CO₂ than a conventional vehicle. Hybrids give the benefits of an electric in the city without the restrictions when covering long distances.

150+ CO₂
per mile

Conventional car - Compare the emission in CO₂e/km between models. Lower emissions mean lower fuel consumption and road tax - saving you money. Diesel cars are more fuel efficient over long distances, while petrol engines are better suited for city driving.

And before you hit the road look up some [green driving tips](#).