Everyone needs a vacation to get away from the busy schedules we all have. It is nice to get away from stress and just simply relax. However, planning vacations can be extremely stressful because of the costs. Vacations are not cheap. Below are a few tips on how to budget a vacation and cut costs!

**Set a plan:** After deciding on a vacation location, write out the activities that you want to participate in. Check out alternative prices and variations of the activities you want to do and see which ones are most cost effective. Therefore you need to make plans now for how you are going to pay for your fun. Being proactive in spending will cut costs.

**Research:** Visit travel websites of the locations you want to visit. Check out low-cost entertainment activities that would be fun. All vacation spots have free entertainment. For example, if you want to vacation on the beach bring a tent and camp out on the sand. This eliminates the cost of lodging and you can play in the sun all day!

**Check out discount travel:** There are various websites on the internet that offer vacation packages that are extremely cost effective. You can combine your travel, hotel, and car rentals all in one package. Vacation packages can ease the stress of figuring all logistics of a vacation. Look for any type of discount that will lower your overall vacation costs. For example, ask about student discounts.

**Food expenses:** Watch what you eat on vacation. There is nothing wrong with splurging on vacation. However, maybe compromise and have only one expensive meal and buy your other food from a local farmer’s market. The money you spend on food ends up being more than most individuals estimate.

**Alternative methods of travel:** Have you ever traveled on a train? Consider a mode of transportation that would be less expensive and possibly fun! There are often student discounts on alternative means of travel. Especially if you are overseas, check out the local buses and trains.

Overall, a vacation is a time to take a break from reality and relax. If you can do your homework before the vacation and set a budget, the stress of money during will vacation will be gone. Be proactive, plan, and enjoy your vacation!