



STUDENT TAX SERVICES

Student Tax Services offers free impartial advice on ways to 'BEAT THE TAXMAN'

Student Tax Services is a godsend for working students. Too often students have overpaid tax and too little advice is available on how to prevent this and to claim it back. STS believe the average repayment is approximately £400 to £500 per tax year.

The service has been designed by students with the help of Pi Accountants, Chartered Certified Accountants providing technical input. The result is a mixture of a fun website, jargon free, demystifying the perceived black art of tax.

As Unies Mirza technical partner explains, the best and hardest part of the site was to make it tax user friendly and to encourage students to take control of their tax affairs. He goes on to explain, *'if students take a keen interest in their taxes at an early stage then the benefits this will bring will extend to wider financial matters'*.

The concept

An early version of this service was first developed by Pi Accountants in order to assist their clients' children claim their tax back from summer and part time jobs.

Unies also a partner in Pi Accountants explains, 'often our clients' offspring

would have general queries about their tax overpayments. Our firm helped get the money back, but we were curious as to why students were having so much trouble in finding out how to do this themselves.'

'After lengthy discussions with students, it appeared that although the information they required was

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available, often it was hard to understand and not centralised. Our objective is to take the complexity out of the tax system and to encourage students to take ownership of their tax affairs''.

Tax savings

The service has proved extremely popular with students and graduates

as it provides them with access to the STS online calculator to check if they have overpaid tax together with a free online help facility to answer any unusual questions students may have about their tax affairs.

'Once we started, we were amazed to find out that many students didn't even know they had been over-taxed, so the repayments were very welcome indeed' added Unies.

Have your say

Looking to the future STS believe students will become much more astute about their tax affairs. This in turn will lead to a better understanding of the stance of the political parties on their taxation policies and better view on how to vote on this issue. It is one of the key factors for voters at general elections.

Unies explains 'Most students get their vote at the time they start University and in order to use their vote wisely they need to be fully informed of matters that affect them. I believe Student Tax Services will help fill some of gaps as far as taxation is concerned'.

Student Testimonial

'As an overseas student new to the British tax system, I was quite desperate to find accurate tax advice about a reclaim I needed to make. None of my friends or advisers at university knew anything specific about the process, and the



government websites I searched were confusing and didn't address my situation. It was such a relief to explain my particular circumstances to STS and receive a detailed answer with concrete suggestions for next steps - and unlike other advice services I have tried, the answers came almost without delay, and did not involve endless holding on an 0870 or 0845 number!' - CCA,

London School of Economics

For more information register on www.studenttaxservices.org.uk



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