About

This fund provides one off financial contributions of up to £500 to support, enhance and develop student-led projects. However, additional funding may be considered for exceptional circumstances.

Applications are open 19 August – 5pm, 30 November and 11 January – 5pm, 1 March. However, they may close early should allotted funds for each Semester be granted.

This is a new fund and replaces the: Societies Development Fund, Student Enterprise Fund, Peer Learning and Support Fund, Volunteering Impact Fund. Activities that would have been supported by these previously are eligible to apply.

Please read the guidelines and criteria carefully.

Aims

Projects should demonstrate impact and long-term benefits on University of Edinburgh students and communities they aim to support within and/or beyond the University, and aim to achieve one or more of the following:

1. Improve the student experience
2. Build community
3. Create a sense of belonging and connection
4. Encourage active citizenship

Projects could include running specific events or trips, purchase of equipment, outreach initiatives or training. Funding can cover items such as digital events and software, travel expenses, refreshments, accommodation, and equipment.

Funding will not cover alcohol or fundraising projects or events.

Eligibility

This fund is open to any student at the University of Edinburgh.

Projects can be based in the UK or abroad but must be student-led for the duration and activities must benefit the student/s.

You can reapply if you were unsuccessful. However, if you intend to apply with the same project, we advise that you revisit the fund aims and guidance. Please only apply for what you need and consider other pots of funding available to you also. You will not be penalised for applying elsewhere at the same time.
**Tips for success.**

Successful applicants will have thoroughly researched the options available to enable their project before applying. For example, identifying: exact costs, venues for events, transport and accommodation, admission/ticket cost to cover expenses; collaboration with others who may possess the desired resources/equipment/skills instead such as other societies, your UoE school or access free training courses; how you can be self-sustaining, identifying other sources of funding, etc.

**Applicants will submit their application well in advance of the project.**

Applicants will also be expected to explain how their objectives relate to one or more of the funds key aims above and demonstrate how their project will be realised. Consider the following:

**Purpose:** What is the reason for your project and why is it important. Who will it impact?

**Accessibility:** Of both the project and your application. Can you maximise who will benefit and is the application readable and easy to follow?

**Implementation and Feasibility:** How will your project be carried out and what resources/time/people will you need. Detail a breakdown of costs and why this is justified (i.e. have you been cost effective?).

**Impact:** How will you assess the impact of this project and ensure that it has long term benefits? Can it be replicated?

Please make sure you read the Terms and Conditions that will apply to certain types of activity within your project.

**Ready to apply?**

**Applications are open 19 August - 30 November and 11 January - 1 March.**

Applications of up to £500 as well as applications for less are welcome, please only ask for what you need. We may not fund all projects up to a figure of £500 and may choose to part-fund projects.

You can apply for one grant per project.

They are reviewed for approval by the Student Opportunities Department on a fortnightly basis and will decide each application on its merits.

Both successful and unsuccessful projects will hear within 14 days, excluding University holidays when the Student Opportunities Department does not meet.

You may be asked for additional information to clarify the nature, aims, or specifics of your project. Please answer their enquiries in an accurate and timely manner to reduce wait time for a final response.
If you are successful

If you are successful, the following conditions will apply:

- You must use the funding as detailed in your application within the same academic year. Any unspent funds must be returned once the project is finished.
- You must acknowledge the Students’ Association on any materials published as a result of your project.
- Societies Annual Reports must include this funding in their Financial Report.
- Any equipment or property purchased for the purpose of a student group must be retained by that group.

You will also be required to submit a short report evaluating your project within a month of your project completion. Failure to meet this deadline may jeopardise your chances of receiving future funding from this scheme.

For student groups registered with the Students’ Association, payment will be made to their Students’ Association bank account. For students with individual bank accounts we will request banking details to make a payment.

I have more questions...

If you have further questions, please check our FAQS. If your question is not answered there, or you would like support from a staff member to take you through the application process, email: student-opportunities-development-fund@eusa.ed.ac.uk.

Best of luck.