About the Fund

The Volunteering Impact Fund (VIF) was established to help you run the best projects you can, for your volunteers, beneficiaries and the wider community. Only projects that are local and hands-on volunteering activities will be granted funding. You can apply for funding for any amount up to £500 to run creative, positive and effective volunteering projects. However, additional funding may be considered for exceptional projects.

Eligibility Criteria

Any project that benefits the local Edinburgh community is eligible for support. Projects must involve students throughout the project duration and not be set up solely for non-students to carry out. Projects must be completed within the academic year that funding is awarded.

To apply for the VIF you must be:

- A student/student group attending the University of Edinburgh. Groups include for e.g. Societies, sports clubs and class groups.

- Funding cannot be awarded:
  - to an individual of a registered charity
  - to a registered charity/student subsidiary of a registered charity
  - to international projects
  - as part of fundraising.

Application Guidelines

In order to be successful, your application needs to prove:

Impact

- Main objectives of the project
- Who will be involved with carrying out the project, and how many volunteers will be involved?
- What impact will this project have in the wider community and who will benefit (in the short and long term)?
Implementation  
- How much funding does the project require in total? 
- How much are you applying for from the VIF (including detailed breakdown)? 
- How have you attempted to make the project as cost effective as possible? 
- Have you/will you be applying to other sources of funding? 
- How do you intend to implement the project? 
- Are you working with any external partners, such as charities?

Sustainability  
- How will you assess the impact and sustainability of your project? 
- How will this project benefit your group and contribute towards its development?

Application Process  
Submit your application using the simple online form. Applications are assessed and voted for by the Funding Committee of the Activities Executive. The committee may ask for additional information to clarify the nature, aims, or specifics of your project. Please answer their enquiries in an accurate and timely manner to ensure you will not have to wait another two weeks to receive a final response. You should receive a final result within 2-3 weeks of submitting an application, excluding University holidays when the committee is unable to meet. Potential outcomes of the vote are Yes, No, Partial Funding, and Need More Information.

If we think your project is not quite right for the VIF, we will meet with you to see how you can adjust your project to better fit the requirements or pass it along to the appropriate contact.

Important Remarks  
You can apply for funding as many times as you like.

Money received from the VIF must be returned if the project does not go ahead within the academic year it is awarded.

A simple evaluation form which we will provide must be completed and submitted to the Students’ Association within 1 month of completing your project, unless you are a Volunteering Society, then this will go in the end of semester report.

Contact Us  
If you have any questions, contact Volunteering at volunteering@eus.a.ed.ac.uk. Alternatively, come in and see us in the Activities office in Potterrow!