



SU SOCIETY GRANTS: APPLICANT INFORMATION

GRANT CATEGORIES

1. Education Grant

"advance the education of Students at the University of Cambridge... and promote ... success at the University of Cambridge and its affiliated institutions"

Explainer:

This category of grant is for activities that **advance the education of students** at the University, by providing opportunities for academic and intellectual enrichment, directly related to academic courses of study at the University.

Examples:

- Reimbursing a speaker's travel costs to attend and speak at a subject society's event
- Hiring a room to host an academic workshop or talk, where that event would advance students' education
- Purchasing small capital items (i.e., non-consumable items) for an ongoing series of educational activities, such as small science equipment, an inexpensive screen for projecting, etc. These must be items that can be used repeatedly at the society's events
- Purchasing small single-use/time-limited items, such as printed texts for a reading group

Specific eligibility:

To be eligible for this grant, the grant request must be to fund something that would either be necessary for, or would enhance, an activity that would advance students' education; this also means that the activity proposed itself would need to self-evidently advance students' education and directly lead to their 'personal development'

2. Community Building Grant

"providing social, cultural, sporting and recreational activities [as well as] discussions and debate ... for the personal development of Students"

Explainer:

This category of grant is for the **facilitating of communal and/or community activities**. These activities might be primarily cultural, social, recreational, or sporting, but they should have as their central purpose building community among students.

Examples:

- Hiring a venue for a cultural/activity-based society to host an event for students
- Purchasing small capital items (i.e., non-consumable items) for an ongoing series of activities, such as board games, a rounders bat, a frisbee, etc. These must be items that can be used repeatedly at the society's events.
- Purchasing small single-use/time-limited items, such as crafts supplies for an arts & crafts event, printed music for a music group's performance, specific cultural food items etc.

This would not include:

- Privately catered meals such as formal tickets or group restaurant meals

Specific eligibility:

To be eligible for this grant, the grant request must be to fund something that would either be necessary for, or would enhance, an activity that would build community among students and directly lead to their 'personal development'. This also means that the activity proposed itself would need to self-evidently build community among students.

3. Liberation & Representative Groups Grant

The Union will seek at all times to... pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate the participation of groups discriminated against by society.

Explainer:

This grant category is for facilitating activities related to, or to the benefit of liberation groups or causes. This should directly benefit BME students, disabled students, LGBTQ+ students, women students, or any students who identify as having experienced misogyny, students who identify as experiencing or having experienced social, educational, or economic disadvantage; and international students.

Examples:

- Booking rooms to be used as safe spaces, memorial days, or running activities relating to liberation and/or social causes
- Purchasing supplies for campaigning activities such as banner making, placard making, or buying ingredients for bake sales to sell for a charity or external organisation

Would not include:

- Direct donations to a charity or external organisation
- Items purchased for resale
- To create a publication without prior agreement from the SU

Specific eligibility:

To be eligible for this grant, the grant request must be to fund something that would either be necessary for, or would enhance, an activity in which students can discuss and debate social and liberation issues. This also means that the activity proposed itself would need to self-evidently present opportunities for discussions and debate in a way directly conducive to students' 'personal development'.

3. Society Start-Up Grant

The Union will seek at all times to... pursue equal opportunities by taking positive action within the law to facilitate the participation of groups discriminated against by society.

Explainer:

This grant category is for any new representative student group to apply for to cover start-up costs. When applying for this grant, please ensure that you detail any projects, events, or items that you would spend this funding on.

Please note that this grant is only for societies that have registered with the SU within the last term.

Examples:

- Room booking for a society launch event
- Supplies to start up the society e.g. craft supplies if an arts-related society

Would not include:

- Direct donations to a charity or external organisation
- Items purchased for resale
- To create a publication without prior agreement from the SU
- Used to purchase anything or pay for services from the SU itself (e.g., a Freshers' Fair stall booking)

Specific eligibility:

To be eligible for this grant, the grant request must be to fund something that would be necessary for any costs that may incur with the start-up of a society.

Overall Eligibility Criteria

In order to make a grant application:

- Your society must be registered with the SU
- You must be a current committee member of the society
- Your society must be open to students from any college
- You must provide a clear account of exactly what item(s) the grant awarded will be spent on

The SU cannot give grants for:

- Purchasing any illegal items (note though that otherwise, requests are assessed on a case-by-case basis)
- Purchasing anything or paying for services from the SU itself (e.g., a Freshers' Fair stall booking)
- Anything purchased prior to a grant being successfully awarded
- Any expenditure over the following:
 - Education Grant: £250
 - Community Building Grant: £250
 - Liberation & Social Causes Grant: £350
 - Society Start-Up Grant: £100
- Any money or resources to be donated to other organisations, including charities
- Anything that could constitute a sponsorship or donation to the society
- Any items that would only be used by / benefit a smaller number of specific individuals (rather than a society's membership as a whole, for example)
- This cannot go to any activity that is directly or indirectly supporting a political party
- Any items or projects that would have a recurring cost (e.g. subscriptions) - please note that the Society Start-Up Grant is excluded from this
- Unnecessary or Environmentally Harmful Travel: Funding will not cover travel deemed excessive or environmentally damaging and will usually only be granted for public transport
- Recurring Events: Only one-off events are eligible. Funding cannot be provided for a series of events.
- Partial Funding: The SU cannot give contributions towards a cost that is greater than the funding limit of the grant (e.g., £250 towards a room booking fee of £400). If you are struggling to find a room for an event, our SU lounge is able to be booked by societies for free, and we may be able to help you in finding other appropriate spaces..
- Food and Drink (Limited Eligibility): General food and drink expenses will not be funded (e.g., refreshments for a gathering). However, food and drink that are an integral part of the event (e.g., traditional food for a cultural event) may be eligible.

Each society can only be awarded one grant each term

Application Process

- 1) Society committee member submits the grant application on behalf of their society via the online society grant application form
 - a) Society committee members can request an application help writing session with an SU member of staff. Please note this does not guarantee that your application will be approved.
 - b) It can take up to two weeks for a grant application decision to be made and sent back to the applicant, so please consider this when submitting a grant application

- 2) The application is processed by the Activities Team and passed onto the SU Society Grant panel
- 3) The panel will review the application based on the following criteria
 - a) How much the application relates to the specific grant category applied for e.g. does it benefit a community and/or is it educational to the members of the society
 - b) If the item(s) are essential to the running of the event
 - c) Whether specific details relating to the event or project have been included
 - d) Application results are either approved, partially approved, denied, and referred to the Societies Syndicate or additional SU funding (e.g. Student-Led Outreach Grant)
 - e) Please note, grant amounts are awarded at the discretion of the panel based on the factors above
- 4) The Activities Team then communicates the panel's decision to the society committee member who submitted the grant application
- 5) If awarded, the grant amount will be made available for the society to claim via the SU's finance system. This must be claimed by the end of the term

Timeline

Application result received - up to 14 days

Payment approval - up to 14 days to be approved post application result received

Payment made - up to one month after management approval to be made

Society grant panel

Composed of:

- Activities Manager
- A Sabbatical Officer