

Access Fund 25.26

February 2026

Student Opportunities Team/
Leicester Students' Union



Introduction

Our aims

We believe that accessing opportunities to make friends and participating in extra-curricular activities are important for our students to establish a strong support network for better wellbeing and a more enriching learning experience during their studies. Therefore, we are launching the Access Fund this year; any student of the University of Leicester is supported by the Leicester Students' Union and can apply for the Access Fund should they encounter financial barriers or hardship in participating in societies, sports clubs, networks, and SU activities.

Whether through full coverage or partial support, we make every effort to support you on your journey as a student at the University of Leicester, helping you to thrive, belong, and succeed.

Eligibility

Who can apply

You are eligible to apply if you are a currently enrolled student at the University of Leicester who is facing a financial barrier to participating in one or more activity groups. All students will be required to fill in an application form. To ensure we are supporting those most in need, students should only apply if they are in financial hardship or face additional challenges.

Students can apply for an amount of up to a maximum of £50 per academic year, depending on the application. Further statement or supporting document will be required for applications requesting more than £10 or if the total amount applied by the student has/will exceed £10.

Leicester Students' Union have a restricted amount of money to give out and so even if your application is successful, we can't guarantee you will receive the full amount you have requested.

You are eligible to apply if you are an UoL student and meet any of the following criteria:

- ***Enrolled UoL student facing financial difficulties.***
- ***Receiving Maintenance Loan or UoL Tuition fee and maintenance loans***
- ***Facing financial pressure because of a disability or wellbeing***
- ***You are a parent or carer.***
- ***You are an international student who is facing additional costs because of your immigration/VISA status or never joined a society/club***
- ***You are a postgraduate students that never joined a society/club***
- ***You are a distance learning student that never joined a society/club***

For successful applicants, the cost of your activity will be transferred directly to the club, society or department that is organising the activity.

We won't transfer the money to you or give out cash. We may reimburse your expenses if the approved amount is greater than what needs to be paid.

What areas of support can you get help with?

- Full or partial cover of membership fee to a club or society, depending on the cost of the memberships.
- Purchase of **essential specialist items** to take part in a sport club, i.e competition kit, sports hijab, boxing gloves or cheerleading shoes.
- Additional costs to taking part in a club/society/community as a result of a disability or accessibility need.
- SU organised ticketed activities (case by case)

Committees may apply for financial support via Grant Funding for equipment which helps to make your club/society more inclusive and accessible.

Examples of what can't be included: university's gym membership, society or club merchandise, physiotherapy, social events or trips of the society or club you are joining.

Application for*	Process time	Requirement	Should the application be accepted
Under £10	Up to 2 weeks	Submission of the application form with clear answers	Complete a feedback form
£10-£50	Up to 4 weeks	Submission of the application form with clear answers and a statement	Complete a feedback form and respond to a follow-up email

**This is calculated by the total applied amount per student per year*

Important notes

What is the application process?

The Opportunities Team reviews each application on a case by case basis. All applicants will receive a decision by email, giving the reason why the application was approved or rejected. We will aim to let applicants know the outcome within 6 weeks of their application if submitted during term time. (During or near holidays periods there may be a delay due to Union closure days or low staff capacity.)

When assessing applications, the Opportunities Team will consider the number of eligibility criteria met and the following points:

- Has the applicant provided a clear rationale for applying for support to take part in Students' Union led sports or activities.
- Is the applicant facing circumstances that are preventing them from taking part in their chosen sport/activity.
- How important is receiving support so that the applicant can participate.

Please note that the application process is a competitive one and the fund has very limited capacity, so not all applications will be successful. The department's decision is final.

Students who are successful in applying for support with the cost of a membership will have their award paid directly into their chosen club/society account on their behalf. You cannot apply for coverage of memberships you have already purchased before you apply for the fund successfully.

Confidentiality

Application details are only seen by the Activities team members from the Students' Union.

Application Form

Our staff will review each application on a case-by-case basis. Please note that funding is limited and the application process is competitive. Therefore, not all applications will be successful, and we cannot guarantee funding for every eligible application. You may submit more than one application for different items or larger amounts at different times; however, your total requested amount for the academic year will be considered. A successful outcome in a previous application does not ensure approval of future applications.

For example, if you applied for £5 in September and were granted it, and then you wish to apply for another society with £10 in January, your total application amount would be £15. You will need to submit a new application form with clear answers and a statement/evidence.

What happen if my application is successful?

Successful applicants will receive the specified memberships, products, or event tickets, which will be allocated to you directly **if it is full coverage**. This may differ from the amount requested in your application. The department will directly purchase the item from the department, society, or club on your behalf.

Please note that the committee of the society or club will be made aware of the arrangement, should you wish not have the committee being aware, you may request for a reimbursement instead, the reimbursement process will take up to 2 weeks to process.

In a case where the granted amount will not fully cover the amount required, reimbursement will be needed. For example, when you are granted £15 and the membership is £25 – you can get £15 reimbursed from the fund after your purchase.

Reimbursement

With a successful application, you will need to purchase the members/items first, then be able to reimburse the agreed fund, as outlined in your application and complete the claims form, which will allow the agreed funds to be transferred to your personal bank account. Evidence and/or receipts will be required as part of the claims form - to ensure the allocated money is only used as agreed in the application. The fund can only be paid into a UK bank account belonging to the applicant. The reimbursement process will take up to 2 weeks to process.