

Sports Union Get Active Fund – Guidance

1 What is it?

- 1.1 The Sports Union Get Active Fund is provided by the Sports Union and administered by a select committee. It is intended to address financial inequality experienced by some students in accessing opportunities to participate in activities that are additional to core course requirements.
- 1.2 Any funding received is non-repayable.
- 1.3 Applications are considered on a first come, first served basis and as such the Fund may be closed when the funding allocation is exhausted. Students are encouraged to submit applications in advance of any activity they wish to participate in and at the earliest opportunity.

2 What can and can't I apply for?

- 2.1 The fund is designated to assist current registered students who are in need of additional financial support to aid with the costs of participating in activities run by or in conjunction with the Sports Union in order to enrich the student experience and enhance engagement.
- 2.2 The fund will consider applications for financial contribution towards activities that enhance the student's experience or development, but are not essential parts of their course, e.g.: Sports Union membership, Strathclyde Sports membership, any kit/clothing needed to take part, or activities/events run by Sports clubs
- 2.3 The fund will not consider applications for financial contribution towards non-Union or University affiliated things and activities not run by or in conjunction with the Sports Union
- 2.4 The fund cannot be used to support tuition fee payments or debts to the University of Strathclyde.
- 2.5 The fund will not support with general living costs including rent or utilities. There are alternative sources of support available for these with their own eligibility criteria.
- 2.6 It is expected that students will make every effort to ensure that costs are reasonable. The assessors reserve the right to refuse an application where this is not demonstrated.

3 Who can apply?

- 3.1 Students who can demonstrate that they meet one of the following categories:

- 3.1.1 Asylum seeker students
- 3.1.2 Students who attended a target school¹
- 3.1.3 Care experienced students
- 3.1.4 Disabled students
- 3.1.5 Estranged students²
- 3.1.6 Gypsy, Traveller, Roma, Showmen and Boater students³

¹ https://www.strath.ac.uk/media/1newwebsite/documents/list_of_target_schools.pdf

² A definition of estrangement is available at <https://www.studentinformation.gov.scot/students/higher-education/estranged-students>

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<https://www.strath.ac.uk/professionalservices/accessequalityinclusion/service/wideningaccess/gettingin/gtrsb/communities/>

- 3.1.7 Mature students⁴
 - 3.1.8 Refugee students
 - 3.1.9 Students with a home postcode in SIMD Quintile 1 or 2 (or other UK equivalent)⁵
 - 3.1.10 Students with caring responsibilities
 - 3.1.11 Students who qualify for the highest rate of student funding from SAAS, SFE, SFNI or SFW, and mature students
 - 3.1.12 Veteran and Armed Forces Community students
- 3.2 All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis and meeting one of the above categories does not guarantee that an award will be made.

4 How and when can I apply?

- 4.1 The online application form can be found on the Sports Union website [here](#).
- 4.2 Applications can be made at any point in the year, including summer. Please note that the Union closes over the winter holidays and applications made during this time will be considered following the recommencing of business in early January.
- 4.3 Applications may take up to 10 working days to be processed. Students are encouraged to plan appropriately to make applications for time-bound activities.
- 4.4 All applications will be considered by an assessor who will be the Sports Union President. The Sports Executive Inclusion Officer and Sports Executive Wellbeing Officer will then be consulted after anonymising the application. Where further consideration is required, another member of the Sports Union Executive Committee or another Strath Union staff member will be asked to consider the application. Where possible, this will be the person most closely related to the activity being applied for

5 Applications and Evidence

- 5.1 Applications should provide clear information on what eligibility criteria is met and why costs cannot otherwise be met. The application should demonstrate why there is a financial barrier towards participation. If this is not clear, then further information will be requested from the applicant.
- 5.2 Evidence must be provided that demonstrates that the applicant meets one or more of eligibility categories.
- 5.3 The required evidence will depend on the relevant eligible group but may include: a SAAS/SFE/SFW/SFNI award notice that shows an enhanced award, loan award notice, evidence of a home address within Quintile 1 or 2 of the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, evidence of receiving Disabled Students' Allowance, or proof of date of birth.
- 5.4 If you are unsure of what evidence to provide, please contact strathunion.vpsport@strath.ac.uk to enquire.

⁴ A definition of how mature students are identified is available at <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate/applying-university/mature-undergraduate-students#:~:text=Typically%2C%20this%20will%20mean%20students,around%2040%25%20are%20over%2030> . but includes students who began their undergraduate studies at Strathclyde aged 21 or over or students who started their postgraduate studies at Strathclyde aged 25 or over.

⁵ As determined by the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation at <https://simd.scot/> or equivalent.

- 5.5 Evidence of the cost of activity or event regardless of award amount requested must be provided upon application.
- 5.6 The assessor reserves the right to request additional supporting evidence of financial status, activity costs, or eligibility criteria for any application.
- 5.7 The assessor will be the Sports Union President and where additional insight is required a staff member will be consulted.
- 5.8 Notification of the outcome of the assessment will be sent to all applicants by email within 10 working days.
- 5.9 A student is permitted to make more than one application in the academic year but may only receive a maximum of £300 in total per academic year (1st August to 31st July).
- 5.10 Consideration will also be given as to whether an award from the fund may have unintended negative consequences, for example adversely affecting entitlement to welfare benefits or asylum support. Where this is potentially a risk, further advice will be provided to the applicant with a view to identifying the most appropriate way to provide support.

6 Payment

- 6.1 Payment will be made by direct bank transfer to a UK bank account in the name of the applicant. Alternative arrangements for payment may be made where necessary.

7 Appeals

- 7.1 Students may appeal against nil awards or awards that are less than the requested amount on the original application. Appeals will only be considered on the following two grounds:
- 7.1.1 Where the applicant can provide additional information or evidence regarding their circumstances which was not available for good reason at the time of the original application, and/or;
- 7.1.2 Where the applicant can demonstrate why they believe the Participation Fund assessor has made an error in their decision-making.
- 7.2 Appeals must be submitted within 10 working days of the date that the application receives notification of the outcome of their application via email. Acceptance of late appeals will be considered where the applicant can demonstrate compelling circumstances which prevented them from meeting the deadline.
- 7.3 Appeals must be made in writing and submitted by email to strathunion.vpsport@strath.ac.uk
- 7.4 Appeals will be referred to a panel formed of members that did not consider the original application. This will be comprised of one member of the Sports Executive team and one Union staff member. The appeal panel will consider and respond to the appeal in writing within 10 working days of the date that the student submits their appeal. This timescale may be extended if the panel requires the student to provide additional information, and the student will be informed of the updated deadline.
- 7.5 The decision of the appeal panel is final and there is no further opportunity for review.