

Athletic Union Funding Policy

Two funding streams available:

1. Activity and Equipment Grant Allocations
2. Representative Sport Funding

1. Activity and Equipment Grant Allocation

What is it?

Funds that may be applied for that are used to support the ongoing core activities of sports clubs for their members. We would encourage sports clubs to plan and budget to be self-sufficient, however, grants are available to make a contribution to some costs:

A total of

- £30,000 is available for activity
- £15,000 is available for equipment purchase

This fund seeks to provide financial support to sports club members participating in activity, with a view that the Students' Union, via the Athletic Union wants to ensure that activities are safe, of high quality and open to all students.

Funding for competitive sport within the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS) framework is covered under the Representative Sport Funding process in part two.

What can it fund?

Part A: Activity Funding

Grant applications may be submitted for the following elements of activity:

- Weekly sessions or activities
- One off trips and events
- Affiliations to national governing bodies

There is no exhaustive list of the costs that we can contribute to within these categories, but some of the common things are:

- Hire of vehicles, venues or equipment
- Hire of coaches, instructors or guides
- Training of members to become officials, coaches or instructors
- Travel to events outside Cardiff
- Affiliations to appropriate and relevant bodies
- Entry to events, competitions or venues

There are some specific things that we can't fund:

- Socials
- Food and/or drink
- Accommodation
- International travel (including any UK parts of journeys)*
- Travel within Cardiff
- Fundraising activities (for charities or yourselves)
- Publicity costs
- Prizes
- Activities that have already happened (or will before the allocation will be made)
- Clubs that participate in weekly fixtured BUCS activity, normally on a Wednesday afternoon, are not eligible to receive funding for costs associated with entry into additional competitions.

*The Athletic Union will now consider grant application requests for international travel when travelling overseas is essential to allow club members to experience club core activity that the UK can't offer.

Part B: Equipment Funding

Grant applications may be submitted to support the purchase of items of equipment. Equipment applications should be for the purchase of necessary equipment for the safe operation or development of your club activity.

There are some specific things that we can't fund:

- Personal equipment (that will only be used by one person)
- Clothing (unless it is a necessary piece of safety equipment)
- Equipment you have already bought (or will be purchasing before the allocation will be made)

How do you apply?

You will be invited to apply for funding by the Athletic Union. Applications will be considered when all relevant information is provided. Deadlines for submission will be set by the Athletic Union. Applications that do not meet such deadlines may not be considered.

We need to collect relevant information in order to understand your wider club as well as just the elements you are applying for. This includes:

- Current membership fee
- Current number of members (and your expected membership into a new year)
- Your current balance in your club accounts
- Any other income you are expecting
- How you plan to spend any income or current balance

How is it allocated?

All submissions will be considered by an awarding panel consisting of the VP Sport and AU President, Head of Student Activities, Deputy Head of Activities and relevant Activities Coordinators. The panel will ensure that funding is provided on a fair and equitable basis and seek to ensure that funds are provided in order to maximise benefits to members.

They will consider:

- Has all relevant information been provided?
- Do the club need funding or does it have sufficient funds already?
- Are the costs associated with the event or activity, costs we are able to fund?
- How much funding has the club already received from this grant?
- Is the activity (or range of activities) inclusive of all members?
- Is the activity relevant to the core aims and objectives of the society?

There are a number of rules the panel will follow to ensure funds are spread as fairly as possible:

- Grant funds will not exceed the total membership income of a club in a year*
- Grant funds will not be provided to more than 5 events or trips per semester
- For ACTIVITY Grants, funds will not exceed 33% of the total cost of trips, events or regular activity
- For EQUIPMENT Grants, funds allocated may exceed 33% but in most cases the Athletic Union would expect clubs to make a contribution towards purchases.

*The Athletic Union will now provide grant funds for up to 200% of Tier 2 Clubs annual membership income where requests fall in line with this policy.

Other considerations

Sports Clubs on probation will not be eligible to receive or spend grant funding. Where a club has an approved action plan to achieve bronze accreditation in place, grant funding may be released.

We welcome applications from groups of clubs working in collaboration on activities, trips and events.

We expect and encourage clubs to hold a balance of around 10% of their normal operating turnover in their accounts in relation to their core activities. Clubs holding more than this would be expected to be spending this on their members. Normal turnover would not normally include turnover relating to clothing purchases or social activity.

If a grant allocation is made, the activity does not take place, or a piece of equipment is not purchased, the funds will be returned to the Athletic Union.

New clubs will be eligible to apply for funding for one trip or event and/or up to four weeks of regular activity costs. Once a new club has achieved bronze accreditation and can demonstrate effective use of allocated funds, a full grant allocation may be made.

There is a finite amount of money available for allocations to clubs, as a result the panel may choose to close budget applications should funds become depleted.

2. Representative Sport Funding

What is it?

The following policy shall apply to funding for all BUCS activity. The same principles shall also aim to be applied to the primary competitive framework for sports that are not represented within the BUCS framework, or those that choose a framework other than BUCS.

What can it fund?

For competitive sports competitions or leagues structures the following costs may be eligible for funding:

- Team Registration Fees
- Event Entry Fees
- Facility Hire
- Transport
- Officials

We can't provide funding for:

- Fines or other penalties as a result of rule breaches
- Participation in IMG competition
- Participation in more than one sporting framework
- Accommodation at domestic sporting competition events

How do you apply?

For weekly BUCS fixtured sports, you **don't** need to apply directly. The costs listed above will be funded directly by the Athletic Union as per the arrangements below.

You will be asked to confirm your team entries (in BUCS and external competitions) for the subsequent year by the Athletic Union. The Athletic Union should be informed if it is your intention to increase or decrease the number of teams entered into competitions for the following year so the viability of this can be assessed. Additional teams will only be entered where the Athletic Union are confident in the clubs' ability to field an additional team and both facilities and funding will be available. Where a team has declared walkovers within a season due to lack of players, the Athletic Union will look to withdraw that team for the subsequent year.

For BUCS Championship events or other competitions, you should contact the Athletic Union and declare your intention to enter teams or individuals prior to the entry deadline. The Athletic Union will confirm with you at this point the funding available in line with the policies below

How is it allocated?

Weekly Fixtures

The Athletic Union will provide BUCS weekly fixtured teams normally those that take part in regular Wednesday afternoon fixture:

- Registration 100% of cost provided by AU
- Transport 100% of cost provided by AU
- Officials 100% of cost provided by AU
- Facilities 100% of cost provided by AU

Clubs that are eligible to receive funding under this model must ensure that each of their members who is representing them in BUCS has purchased the annual BUCS participation fee of £15 per person via the Cardiff Students' Union website.

Championship Events

The Athletic Union will provide BUCS championship team and individual entrants:

- Registration 100% of first £50 of registration fee per CLUB per EVENT
75% of next £50 (from £50 to £100) of registration fee per CLUB per EVENT
50% of any registration fee over £100 per CLUB per EVENT

An "Event" is the period of time in which the club, team or individual is attending a competition. Eg, BUCS Long Course Swimming is one event, BUCS Swimming Short Course is a separate event. The individual races entered by individuals and teams within that period are deemed to be part of that "event."

- Transport 50% up to £20 per person (£50 for lone entrants)
- Accommodation 0% no funding will be available for accommodation

The number of entries per club will be at the discretion of the AU President and will among other things consider the past performance of teams/clubs as well as the potential to score points.

Clubs competing in competitions outside of the BUCS framework can apply for support in the annual grant application process as detailed earlier in this document.

Other considerations

Applications for funding for British University Games, World University Games and other International University sporting events will only be considered in exceptional circumstances. Requests should be made to the Athletic Union and will be considered on a case by case basis. If any support is available, it will not exceed:

	Transport	Accommodation
British University Games	Up to 50%, to a maximum of £50 per person	Up to 50%, to a maximum of £20 per person per night
World University Games/International University Events	Up to 50%, to a maximum of £100 per person	

The Athletic Union is not currently in a position to support any students who are selected to compete in Non-University related International Events.