Unite! Seed Fund for Student Activity

Call for Student Bodies and Student-Centred University Units

What is the Unite! Seed Fund Initiative?

The Unite! Seed Fund helps finance ideas coming from the Unite! community, i.e., from the students, researchers, and teachers of the 9 Unite! universities. The Seed Fund offers financial support to collaborations between at least two Unite! partners. The goal is to help get your project started and get you on the right track for a long-term collaboration.

What can the Seed Fund offer to students?

It finances projects on any subject or extracurricular topic that brings an added value to students and is collaborative. Possible ideas include joint activities such as exhibitions, events, excursions, competitions, hackathons, courses on Metacampus; in areas such as innovation, sports, career, language, education, communication, outreach, or any other promising idea.

Applications must show a convincing path towards an independent long-term collaboration. Therefore, the activities supported by the Seed Fund are expected to be:

1) Replicable, meaning that they can easily be repeated after the end of the Seed Fund project
2) Sustainable, meaning that they can be continued even without financial support from the Seed Fund
3) Scalable, meaning that they can be expanded to more students and more Unite! universities

Who can apply:

- Organised student bodies, such as student associations/organisations
    - An eligible applicant is defined as an organised student body formally recognized by a Unite! partner university or its central Student Union.[1]
    - Regardless of legal entity, the group must demonstrate a defined internal structure (e.g., statutes, bylaws, or faculty supervision) that <u>ensures the continuity and sustainability of the project beyond the involvement of current members</u>.
    - Your student body's eligibility has to be confirmed by the Student Liaison Officers.
- Units and service centres of Unite! universities that directly work with students (such as sports unions, language centres etc.)
    - Projects led by service centres must be co-coordinated and co-implemented by students

At a Glance: Unite! Seed Fund for Student Activity

Seed Fund programme line:	Student Activity
Maximum budget of each proposal in this call:	**up to €20,000**
Deadline for contacting Student Liaison Officers:	**8 March 2026**
Deadline for proposal submission:	**20 March 2026**
Announcement of results:	**Early June 2026**
Funding period for this call:	**October 2026 – December 2027**

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[1] Eligible entities include: Student Associations and Unions (e.g., Parliaments, Faculty Councils), registered Student Clubs and Societies (e.g., Student Science Clubs / Research Circles, Cultural Agendas), University Project Teams (e.g., Racing Teams, Engineering Squads), Institutional Student Groups (e.g., Working Groups).

Info Sessions for Potential Applicants

- The Student Liaison Officers will host three online info sessions on the current Seed Fund call for Student Activities. Potential applicants will learn about specific rules and requirements and be able to ask questions of any sort.
- Dates and times:
    1) **27 January, 12:00-13:00 CET**
    2) **18 February, 12:00-13:00 CET**
    3) **2 March, 12:00-13:00 CET**
- Participation link for all info sessions: **https://grenoble-inp.zoom.us/j/95113657919**
    - Meeting ID: 951 1365 7919
    - Passcode: 530105

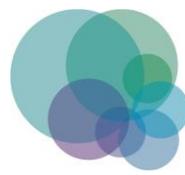**What can you get funding for:**

Eligible costs

- Personnel costs for organisational tasks (only for staff employed by a Unite! university)
- Student assistants (defined as employable by Unite! university)
    - The seed fund cannot be used for student grants or remuneration. *This means: The Seed Fund can only cover the costs for regular staff and student assistants. It cannot be used to provide students with stipends/grants or any other payments besides regular salaries.*
- Travel expenses: Sustainable modes of travel preferred (if possible, use trains rather than planes!)
    - Travel costs must be covered (and applied for) by the universities sending students to another university. The host university cannot pay travel costs of external students.
- A small budget should be planned in the expenses if you intend to use the Unite! Metacampus. Please contact the Metacampus support team (metacampus@unite-university.eu) to help you!

Other costs

- Other eligible costs are:
    - Material resources (e.g. promotional material)
    - On-site/blended workshops (room rental, catering etc.)
    - External service providers (e.g. moderators, language services)
    - Grant writing (i.e. writing applications for funding other than the Unite! Seed Fund)
    - The purchase of technical equipment and the replacement of standard equipment must be approved by the institutions involved before application submission.

Please be aware that:

- The **applicants themselves (i.e. the students) are responsible** for the implementation of their project throughout the project lifecycle
- All costs must be justified to be eligible
- The funding will be administrated by your university
- The funding will be available approximately **three months after** the approval of your project
- The funding must be shared (approximately) equally between the partner universities
    - If the application involves 2 universities, a single partner shall not receive more than 60% of the total funding.
    - If the application involves 3 or more universities, a single partner shall not receive more than 50% of the total funding.

How will your application be evaluated?

- Applications must involve **eligible student bodies or university units from <u>at least two</u> Unite! member universities**. Partners outside the Unite! alliance can be included, but they will not receive funding.
- If beneficial for the project, the Unite! Metacampus can be used as part of the project. Please contact the Metacampus support team (metacampus@unite-university.eu) to help you!
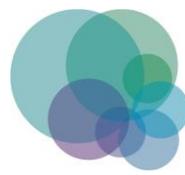
The reviewers* will evaluate the following:

1) The **overall quality** of your proposal, including:
   - Adequate collaboration of students and student organisations of the Unite! alliance. *This means: The application makes clear the format of all joint activities (on-site, virtual) and how intensively the applicants will work together.*
   - Realistic and comprehensible work plan and clearly defined outputs of your project
   - Adequacy of the funding requested. *This means: Have you clearly explained how much money you will use for what, and why this is important? (Seek help from the [Unite! Student Liaison](#) officers while planning your budget!)*

2) The **sustainability and long-term perspective** of your proposal, including:
   - Likelihood and potential benefit of follow-up joint activities (e.g., expanding participation, scaling-up). *This means: Have you shown a convincing path towards making your collaboration continue beyond the seed funding period?*

3) The potential **impact** of your proposal, including:
   - Added value for students and students' organisations/associations. *This means: Your project offers students something that they do not already have (access to).*
   - If applicable: Potential for outreach and external dissemination of Unite! *This means: Is your project relevant to people beyond the Unite! universities? Does your project include activities that make Unite! visible to larger audiences?*

*The evaluation of applications will be carried out by an evaluation board made up of members of the Unite! Academic Forum (UAF), and selection decisions will be confirmed by the Unite! Steering Committee. **Results are expected by early June 2026.**

Application Procedure

- Applicants must contact their universities' [Student Liaison Officers](#) (SLO) **no later than 8 March 2026**. The SLOs will schedule a meeting with you to offer guidance and support. Applications that do not involve the SLOs will be <u>rejected</u>!
  - If you are affiliated with ULisboa, you must also include your [Key Liaison Officer](#) (KLO) in your email.
- The final applications must be submitted **no later than 20 March 2026** via email to: **seedfund@unite-university.eu**.
- Complete application form **(please download the template from the Unite! website)** including:
  1) **Project outline** (max. <u>3 A4 pages</u>, please include your signatures on an additional sheet) as PDF. Make sure to fulfil the evaluation criteria mentioned above.
  2) **Budget table** (Excel sheet) filled out and submitted together with the form.

3) **Eligibility table** (Excel sheet) filled out and submitted together with the form. *This table serves as a checklist (for the reviewers as well as for yourself) as to whether your application fulfils the eligibility criteria.*

4) **SLO letters:** A letter or e-mail in which your Student Liaison Officers confirm that all local requirements for the implementation of the project have been met. You need one SLO letter from each participating university!

What happens if your application is successful?

- The funding can only be transferred to institutional units/organisations/departments etc. and not to individual students. *This means: You will not receive the funding directly, but your home university will manage the cost together with you.*
- The funding will be available **approximately three months after** the approval of your project.
- After the end of your project, you will have to complete and send a report about your project activities to the Unite! secretariat. The deadline for this report is two months after the end of your project (i.e., latest by 28 February 2028). *If your proposal is successful, you will receive a template for this report.*