Fact Sheet

What sort of projects does the Fund support?

The fund offers small grants of up to 50% of total project costs (to a maximum of £500*) to support innovative, student-led, and extracurricular:

- projects that have community, social or cultural benefit.
- campus-based activities or events that benefit the Newcastle student community (applications from clubs and societies for one-off events will be considered).

* the International Development Conference 2011 was able to hold an amazing photo exhibition: "The Untouchables". We could not have added this great section to the conference had it not been for [their] help and financial and moral support . . . Thanks!

Sarah MacShane, International Development Conference

Why should I apply?

In addition to funding support, the Fund offers a range of in-kind support and expertise that can help you hone and develop your skills while you bring your project or event to life.

When should I apply?

We welcome applications early in the project development process.

Applications are considered throughout the year by the Fund Committee, which typically meets fortnightly during the academic term.

Applications must be received no less than one month in advance of the completion of the project.

Where does the money come from?

The Alumni Association Student Initiative Fund exists thanks to the generosity of alumni and friends of the University who donate to the Annual Fund. Newcastle University Annual Fund has enjoyed the support of alumni, current staff, retired staff and students for many years and it supports a wide range of areas across campus, directly helping current students.

Donations are generated through the University’s phonathon fundraising campaigns. A team of 28 student callers speak with over 15,000 alumni and supporters of Newcastle University to encourage them to join our regular giving programme.

For more information please visit http://www.ncl.ac.uk/alumni/fund/index.htm

Who is eligible?

Funding is available to current Newcastle University students and recent Newcastle graduates applying within 6 months of graduation.
How do I apply?

The application form is available from the ncl+ website at: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/students/nclplus/funding/fund/.

To be successful your application should be as detailed as possible with particular attention to the budget, project plan, and risk assessment.

If your application meets the Fund’s eligibility criteria, you will be asked to attend a Fund committee meeting to speak about your proposal and answer questions about your application.

How soon will I learn the committee’s decision?

Once you’ve met with the Fund committee you should be notified of our decision within 5 working days.

What other help can I get?

In addition to the small grant, support is available from Fund partners to help develop your idea.

“Your help and advice was greatly appreciated and we cannot thank you enough for the positive impact it has made to our professional development.”

Kevin McPhee and Harriet Plewis, An Association of Companies Defining Movement

Whether you need help developing your budget, with project and event management, or advice about marketing, we can point you to resources to develop the skills you need to succeed with your proposal.

Assessing the risk of your project

If your application is successful, you will be asked to complete and submit a final risk assessment form (Word doc: 52KB). To help you do this we have risk assessment guidelines (Word doc: 29KB).

What will I provide in return?

If your application is successful you will be expected to submit an initial project profile which will be used to promote your project and to encourage other students to apply to the Fund.

Upon completion you will submit a project summary report and case study detailing how the grant was used (including a financial report and receipts), the community, social or cultural impact of your project or event, and how you developed your skills in the process. This will be used to report back to our funders and to recruit further donations and support to the Fund.

“... when we needed funding to start our own project [the Fund] was there! For all the help and support we have received for our project, we hope we can give something valuable back to the students and encourage all to follow their own ambitions . . . !”

Edward Byers, Cinema Politica Newcastle

We may also ask you to talk about your project to representatives of the Alumni Association or the Annual Fund phonathon team or other Fund partners.

What if I receive funding and my idea doesn’t go ahead?

You will need to return the grant so it can be used to support other applications.

What if I need help with my application or have other questions?

If you have any questions drop into the Careers Service between 10am and 4.30pm Monday to Friday speak to a careers adviser or e-mail careers@ncl.ac.uk.