

Societies FUNDING

2025/26



Newman
Students'
Union

Introduction & Context

The 2025/26 academic year has been a standout year for societies at Newman Students' Union. Engagement in student activities has grown more than at any point in recent organisational memory, reflecting the dedication of student leaders and the Vice-President in championing the many benefits of extracurricular involvement at Birmingham Newman University.

This success is even more impressive given the historically limited funding available to societies at Newman. Through constructive discussions with the University Leadership Team, the Union has secured significant additional funding for student activities. This will be delivered in two phases: an initial phase addressing immediate funding needs in 2025/26, followed by a second, more strategic phase as part of the Union's wider funding agreement with the University.

This document outlines how your society can access Phase 1 funding to support activities for the remainder of the academic year. It presents an excellent opportunity to expand your programme, attract new members, and build strong foundations for future activity. While we anticipate that you will utilise much of the funding available to you this year, any unspent allocation can be carried forward to help you make an even better start in September to your society activities.

The second phase of funding is not covered in detail in this document. In short, it forms part of a wider increase to the Union's central funding from the University (Block Grant). A significant portion of this additional funding will be used to support a broader and more inclusive student activities programme at Newman.

This increased funding will also allow the Union to recruit an additional staff member who will provide consistent, dedicated support to societies. This will ensure student groups receive the professional guidance and assistance needed to grow and deliver more activity in the future.

This funding is here to help you do more. We encourage all societies to apply, run new activities, attract new members, and build momentum for the future. The Union is committed to supporting student-led activity, and this funding is an important step in helping societies thrive at Newman.

The first phase of funding is divided into 4 opportunity areas:

1. **Direct Funding to Your Society** - £200 for every society*
2. **Partnership Grants** - grants available for collaborative working
3. **Society Development Fund** - One-off grants for extraordinary development requests.
4. **New Societies Fund** - £200 for up to 10 new societies established this year.

We have designed access to this funding to be deliberately simple, with a small number of strands that also support collaboration and longer-term investment. If you have any questions, please contact the Union Director or the Vice-President for advice or support.

Thank you again for the incredible work you've done in putting student activities on the map at Newman this year, and best of luck with your next steps.

Robin Pitt
Union Director

Clare Sharp
Vice-President

Direct Funding to Your Society

The first funding opportunity available to all societies* is an immediate **£200** allocation. Societies are free to spend this as they choose, provided the expenditure supports your society's constitutional aims and objectives.

From 10 March 2026, all societies will have a dedicated account within the Union's finance system. An initial £200 will be credited to your account for your society to spend.

This amount will be added to any funds you already hold, including balances from **Development Grants, Arts, Culture** or **Wellbeing** funding, **self-generated income**, or **historic balances**. From the 10th you will be able to request your account balance from either the Union Director or Vice-President.

What should you spend it on?

We won't or can't tell you what to spend your newly allocated funds. However, please keep in mind when you are planning on expenditure a couple of things:

1. The funds in your society account are your member's funds and anything you do decide to spend money on must be for the good of the whole society and members should be consulted on any expenditure.
2. Storage space at the Union is at a premium. If you are planning on buying equipment, please consult with the Union Director or Vice-President first to ensure there is somewhere to store whatever you purchase.

Other than those two pointers it really is up to your members. Some potential uses for the money could be Trips, Equipment or Training. If you are unsure about what to use your society funds for, do speak to one of the Union Team who can give you some pointers.

How to spend this money?

We have refined the process for spending money from your society account to make it simpler and to ensure funds are used in the interests of the whole society.

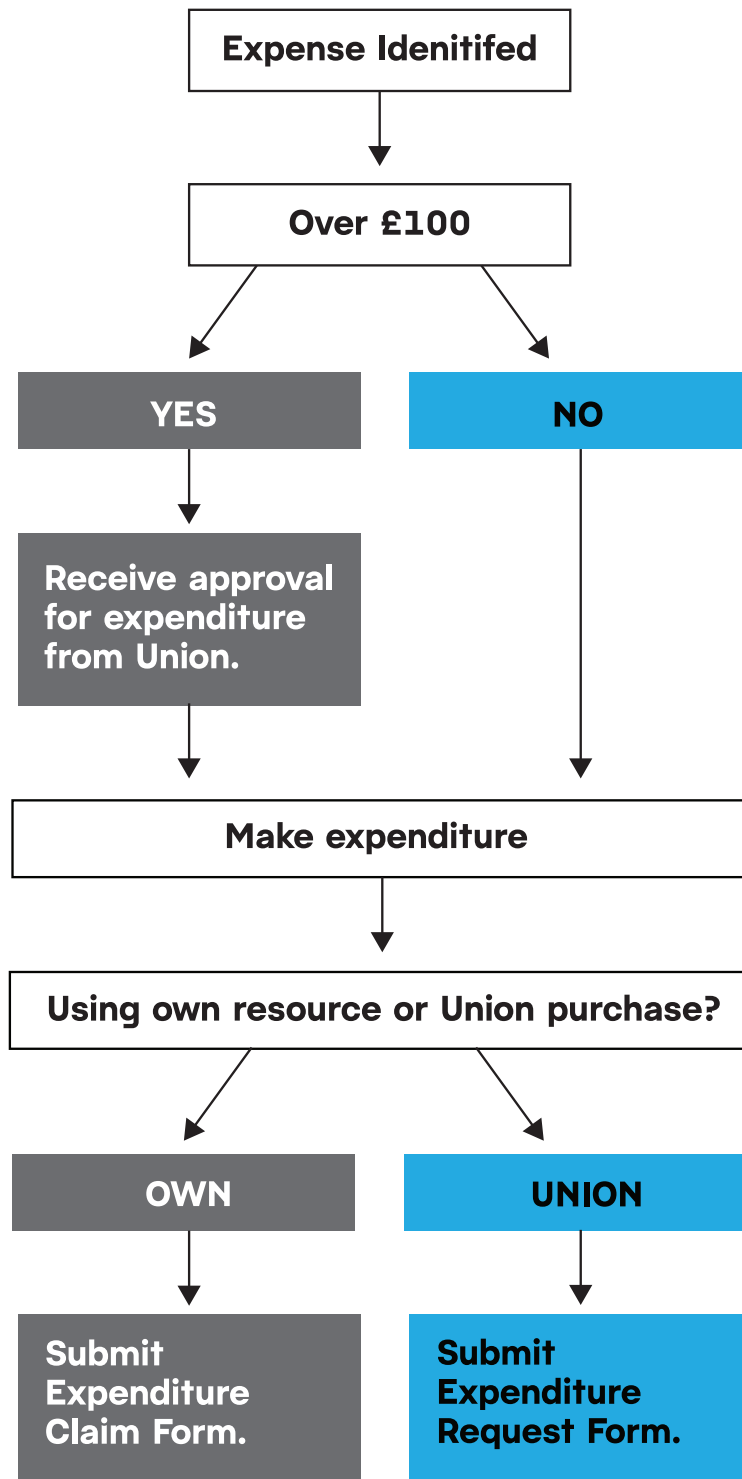
As outlined in [Bye Law E](#), expenditure of up to £100 does not require pre-approval from a member of Union staff or an Officer Trustee. This rule also applies to the new funding allocations. Expenditure over £100 must be pre-approved by the Union Director or the Vice-President.

Societies can either pay for items using personal funds and claim the money back from the Union, or request that the Union makes the purchase on your behalf. A simple flowchart below explains the process.

All spending should be agreed by your society members. Any claim form or pre-authorisation form must be signed by both the Society Chair and Treasurer. Failure to follow this process may result in disciplinary action, as outlined in the Union's [Code of Conduct](#).

Expenditure Process

The flow digram below shows the process for making expenditure of society funds both above and below the £100 threshold. [Click here to download an Expenditure Claim Form or Expenditure Request Form.](#)



Partnership Grants

In addition to direct society funding, we are offering Partnership Grants for projects involving more than one society. These grants support events and initiatives that bring societies together, reach new students, and encourage wider participation across the Newman community.

Grants are capped at **£150 per partnership project**. To apply, you will need to complete both a Partnership Grant Application Form and a Partnership Grant Budget Form, outlining the aims of the project, expected outcomes, and associated costs.

To ensure the funding is distributed as fairly as possible, societies may not always receive the full amount requested. This approach allows the Union to support as many collaborative projects as possible within the available budget.

Partnership Grants are available to groups of 2 or more societies making a joint application. **Single society applications will not be considered.** Applications will be reviewed and approved by the Community & Wellbeing Committee. If you would like advice or information before applying, please speak to either the Union Director or Vice-President.

Timetable for Application Process

Applications Open	12/03/2026
Applications Close	26/03/2026
Applications Reviewed	07/04/2026
Grants Announced	09/04/2026

[To download the Partnership Grant Application Form click here.](#)

[To download the Partnership Grant Budget Form click here.](#)

Society Development Fund

While we hope the direct funding provided through this student activities initiative will give your society a welcome boost, we recognise that additional resources may sometimes be needed to support your society's continued growth and development.

For this reason, we are offering Society Development Grants, capped at **£100 per application**. Societies may only apply for these grants once the funds available in their society account have been fully used or allocated.

These grants are intended for the purchase of equipment or assets with a lifespan of more than one year, ensuring that any investment made now delivers long-term benefits for your society and its future members.

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[To download a Society Development Grant Application Form click here.](#)

[To download a Society Development Grant Budget Form please click here.](#)

Inventory Considerations & Storage

As mentioned earlier in this document, storage space at the Union is limited. From the end of this academic year, societies will be required to complete an inventory of all equipment they own and identify any storage needs. This will help ensure equipment is properly accounted for, insured, and accessible to society members.

Before purchasing any additional equipment, please speak with the Union Director or Vice-President to confirm that suitable storage arrangements can be made.

Societies will be contacted after Easter to discuss completing their inventory and storage requirements. In the meantime, if you would like to prepare and would like to view the Union's Inventory Policy, please click [here](#).

Questions & Contacts

If you have any questions or concerns about finances for your Society, please don't hesitate to get in touch with the Union so we can help you get the best of these opportunities. Our contact details are below:

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