

# Policy on Recognition and Support of Student Organisations

*Adopted on July 3rd with the consent of the University Council and the Council of the University of Applied Sciences, and in effect from 1 September 2024. Since this is a translated document, the Dutch version is leading.*

## 1. Introduction

Student organisations offer students of Utrecht University (UU) and the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (HU) the opportunity to develop themselves socially, professionally and personally in addition to their studies. Moreover, they offer a meeting place where students can find each other and look out for each other. In this way, student organisations contribute to the close-knit student community and an attractive student city.

The Executive Boards of the HU and UU appreciate the efforts of student organisations and their administrators and therefore support them in various ways. Since 2004, the HU and UU have had a collaboration for the implementation of the support under the name "Bestuurlijk Actief Utrecht". The formal rules for support are laid down in various joint documents:

- Policy Recognition and Support for Student Organisations
- [Compensation for board activities grants scheme](#)
- [Student Organisation Subsidy Scheme \(Dutch\)](#)

## 2. Assessment

The Policy on Recognition and Support for Student Organisations contains the criteria on which the HU and UU jointly assess whether (activities of) student organisations are recognised by the institutions and when they are eligible for (financial) support. Every year, the student organisations are called upon to submit at least their membership numbers and annual report. If there is reason to do so, organisations can also be asked to provide their list of members<sup>1</sup>.

The organisations will be assessed every three years on the basis of the information provided, after which the new allocations for the next three academic years will be determined by the Executive Boards of the HU and/or UU. During the assessment year, the organisation will also be asked to provide at least an extract from the Chamber of Commerce, the statutes, and the code of conduct and/or the internal regulations of the organisation.

New organisations can submit a request for recognition at any time and do not have to wait until an assessment year. However, board grants can only be awarded during an assessment year.

## 3. Requirements for recognition

To be eligible for support, the student organisation must be recognised by the UU and HU. Recognition takes place by the Executive Boards on the advice of the Department of Education, Research and Student Affairs (HU) and the Department of Students, Education and Research (UU) based on the following criteria:

- a) The organisation mainly focuses on the student community of the HU and/or UU.
- b) The organisation is mainly managed by students of the HU and/or UU.
- c) The organisation provides numerous activities that contribute to society and/or the personal development of HU and/or UU students.
- d) The organisation has an open character and does not make any unjustified distinction in admitting members to the association or participants in activities.
- e) Members and other people involved in the organisation treat each other with respect and are treated equally in equal cases. Discrimination on the grounds of religion, belief, political opinion, race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or on any other grounds is not permitted.

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<sup>1</sup> This is done in accordance with the GDPR guidelines. The organisations will receive instructions for this.



- f) The organisation is registered as an independent legal entity with the Chamber of Commerce in the city of Utrecht<sup>2</sup>.
- g) The organisation demonstrates (financial) solidity, independence and continuity. The organisation must not be financially dependent on the HU and/or UU, must have had full legal capacity for at least 12 months and must have its own statutes.
- h) The organisation has internal regulations and/or code of conduct that are in line with current social norms, the Codes of Conduct from the HU and UU. At the very least, these documents should make clear what the standards of conduct are within the organisation, what the rules are regarding alcohol and drug use at the organisation, and how violations of these rules and agreements are dealt with.
- i) The organisation provides access to a confidential (contact) person for their members.
- j) The organisation has no commercial, political or profit motive.
- k) The organisation enriches the range of already recognised student organisations or facilities that are already offered by the HU or UU. Affiliation with an already recognised organisation is not obvious.

#### 4. No recognition and/or (financial) support

Recognition and/or (financial) support will not be granted or may be withdrawn<sup>3</sup> in the occurrence of at least one of the following cases:

- a) The organisation does not meet the conditions for recognition.
- b) The organisation does not comply with national or local laws and regulations, or the agreements made with the HU or UU<sup>4</sup>.
- c) The organisation uses the (financial) resources of the HU or UU for improper purposes.
- d) The organisation falls short in guaranteeing a (socially) safe environment<sup>5</sup>.
- e) The organisation and/or the activities of the organisation and/or the members (acting as part of the organisation) cause damage to the relationship network and/or the reputation of the HU or UU.
- f) The board of the organisation fails to take timely and appropriate measures when there is an incident or violation; and<sup>6</sup>
- g) The HU and/or UU has no confidence in improvement in a reasonable period of time, and/or there is serious reprehensible behaviour.

#### 5. Support resources

The HU and UU offer various facilities for recognised student organisations. Additional terms and conditions apply to some amenities. You can find the most up-to-date information on the website of [Bestuurlijk Actief Utrecht](#) or via the [contact persons](#) of the HU or UU.

##### a. Board Grants

A board grant is a financial compensation for student board members of recognised student organisations, as a token of appreciation for their efforts. The conditions that an individual student must meet in order to

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<sup>2</sup> In the case of a student organisation of University College Roosevelt or a student organisation of the HU located in Amersfoort, a registration in either Middelburg or Amersfoort is also possible.

<sup>3</sup> Before recognition and/or support is withdrawn, the HU and UU will always apply an adversarial procedure with the current board of the organisation in question.

<sup>4</sup> Think of the KMT Code of Conduct or the Code of Conduct and the alcohol and drug policy of the UIT.

<sup>5</sup> The board ensures that no one's value is compromised during activities and meetings in an association and that the members treat each other and other people involved with respect; rejects undesirable behaviour such as violence, both mental and physical, discrimination, sexism, coercion and humiliation.

<sup>6</sup> Criterion G must always be met before recognition and/or support is withdrawn.



be eligible for a board grant can be found in the [Compensation for board activities grants scheme](#). Here you will also find the current size of a board grant unit.

The number of board grant units for which the board of a student organisation is eligible is determined on the basis of the number of HU/UU members that a recognised organisation has (see table 1). If the number of members is not a clear indicator given the nature of the organisation (e.g. music group, foundation or umbrella organisation), the board must substantiate in which category the organisation should fall.

Consider, for example, the number of students that the organisation reaches and/or how many students are active in the organisation. Organisations may be eligible for 25 additional units when they manage an association building (i.e. one or more accommodations/club) that provides a central meeting place for members. Ultimately, the Executive Boards of the HU and UU determine how many units of board grants the organisations are eligible for.

Table 1

Categories	Number of HU+UU members <sup>7</sup>	Basic units board grant	Basic subsidy
1	<50	0	€0
2	≥50	5	€500
3	≥100	10	€1.000
4	≥150	15	€1.500
5	≥200	20	€2.000
6	≥250	25	€2.250
7	≥300	30	€2.500
8	≥350	35	€2.750
9	≥400	40	€3.000
10	≥450	45	€3.250
11	≥500	50	€3.500
12	≥550	60	€0
13	≥650	65	€0
14	≥750	70	€0
15	≥900	75	€0
16	≥1050	80	€0
17	≥1250	85	€0
18	≥1450	90	€0
19	≥1700	95	€0
20	≥2000	100	€0

#### **b. Subsidies**

Recognized student organisations may be eligible for financial contribution. More detailed information about the various types of subsidy and the conditions can be found in the [Student Organisation Subsidy Scheme](#).

- Basic subsidy: A financial contribution for the organisation of activities that contribute to society or the personal development of students. During the assessment, the amount of basic subsidy that the student organisation will receive during the next three academic years will be determined (see Table 1).
- Incidental subsidy: A one-off claim for a financial contribution for the organisation of one or more specific activities of a student organisation.

<sup>7</sup>The average number of members of the association who were enrolled as students (or who had not been enrolled for a maximum of 12 months) at the HU or UU in the three previous academic years.

The HU and UU also make financial support available for the deployment of professionals who are needed for their organisation. For sports organisations, this is done through the Mesa Cosa Foundation and for music societies through the Coordinating Body for Student Music Societies Utrecht (KOSMU).

***c. Facilities***

The HU and UU make limited facilities available to student organisations. This includes office, storage and meeting facilities, as well as locations for activities and events.

***d. Advice and training***

The HU and UU regularly organise training sessions and meetings for student board members. Here they can learn from experts and from each other about all kinds of themes that they will have to deal with during their board year. In addition, in many cases, the student board members can make use of the knowledge within the HU and UU when they are struggling with something within their association. They can receive advice through the contact persons of their educational institution.

***e. Cooperation***

The HU and UU can contribute to the recruitment of members and the promotion of widely accessible activities organised by recognised student organisations. At the same time, the student organisations contribute to the positive image of the educational institutions and vice versa. When it comes to common interests, the HU and UU and the student organisations can also offer each other assistance. In addition, student board members are invited to various ceremonial and festive gatherings of the HU and UU.

## **6. Hardship clause**

The Executive Boards may deviate from the application of the criteria or rules set out in this policy in cases where strict adherence would lead to cases of extreme unfairness.