



UPP Foundation: Grant Guidance and Criteria

2022

The UPP Foundation's vision is to help students, graduates and universities fulfil their potential to transform lives and communities.

One of the ways we do that is by providing grants to charities, universities and other higher education bodies to develop innovative pilot projects, which attempt to overcome difficult social problems within our goals.

We recently published our new 2025 strategy [Belonging to the Future](#). Our 2022 funding round will help us to implement this strategy. As part of that we will provide grants to universities, charities and the wider higher education sector in order to:

- Enable students and graduates to succeed
- Develop green and sustainable civic universities

Organisations that wish to apply must complete an application form [upp-foundation.org/download-grant-application-form]. Subsequent to submission we may also ask for additional information and/ or your most recent annual report and financial accounts in order to review your application.

The UPP Foundation is an independent charity and all of its grants are reviewed and authorised by its [Board of Trustees](#).

The UPP Foundation was created in 2016 by UPP, the UK's leading provider of on-campus residential and academic accommodation infrastructure.

Our goals

The 2022 funding round will focus on projects which look to address these two goals.

1. Enable students and graduate to succeed

We will fund a small number of projects which aim to foster students' sense of belonging and build their networks and relationships through participation in a 'living and learning' university experience – widening opportunity for all.

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Improving engagement in a living and learning experience will improve student mental health and strengthen graduate outcomes. Over the last 12 months we have run the Student Futures Commission, engaging with people across the country to understand what students, universities and other interested parties want to see from higher education, and how the sector should respond to the challenges of a post-Covid era. [The final report from the Student Futures Commission](#) is the intellectual blueprint for the issues we want to support within this goal.

2. Develop green and sustainable civic universities

We will fund universities and connected charities to improve environmental sustainability in higher education and build partnerships with the local community – putting them at the heart of positive change.

Our funding will look to support a small number of initiatives which help civic universities and their students to effectively tackle environmental issues and climate change, develop sustainable campuses, and develop the leadership role universities and their students play within their local communities – helping to bridge so-called town-gown divides. We welcome all ideas within this goal – for example they could be innovative biodiversity schemes, environmental service-learning pilots and schemes which support the sector’s civic leadership of this issue in the local community, and many more besides.

Organisation criteria

The UPP Foundation will

- Fund innovative organisations that share our values and vision
- Typically fund universities and registered charities in the UK – both those registered with the Charity Commission or The Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (whichever is appropriate)
- Consider applications from non-registered groups with a clear social purpose, social enterprises, community groups and other charitable bodies
- Fund organisations that understand the importance of outcome and impact measurement through the capture and recording of accurate data

The UPP Foundation will not support

- Applications from individual students or persons (to clarify we will not accept applications directly from an individual but can accept applications from institutional bodies that meet the ‘organisation criteria’ wishing to support individuals within the Foundation’s goals)
- Organisations directly affiliated to any political party
- Single faith religious organisations – it is understood that many charities have religious affiliations, foundations, and history. The restrictions

on single faith religious organisations only applies to charities or organisations where the observance to a specific faith is a prerequisite of support from the charity or organisation

- Organisations directly funded by the UPP Foundation for an existing project (we will only fund one project per organisation at any time)

Project criteria

Applications must

- Focus on one or more of The UPP Foundation's core goals outlined on page 1
- Allow financial support from The UPP Foundation to make a unique contribution that adds significant value to the project
- Create long-term and sustainable change measurable by clear outcomes
- Demonstrate real benefit to the higher education sector, employers and/ or individuals
- Evidence a clear timeframe for delivery and evidence of tangible impact

Applications must not

- Risk bringing the name of The UPP Foundation and associated corporate parent UPP Group Holdings Ltd into disrepute
- Relate to the purchase of land or existing buildings (including a building's freehold) or the repayment of loans
- Represent a disproportionate percentage of the overall turnover of the organisation
- Relate to non-specific appeals, endowment funds, conduit organisations or appeals by circular

Judging criteria

The quality of applications will be judged by Trustees on the following principles:

- A credible and deliverable project
- Displays a new or innovative approach to advancing our goals
- Demonstrates a commitment to collaboration and/or partnership working
- Will have a tangible impact to meet our goals

- Presents a clear plan for the long-term sustainability once UPP Foundation support ends

Applicants should be aware that Trustees will be particularly looking at projects which demonstrate an innovative approach to tackling an issue within our goals.

Size of grants and length of project

There is no time limit to a project, but The UPP Foundation will only provide grants up to a total of £25k (we encourage applications ranging from £5k to £25k). All applications need to include a budget detailing how the grant income will be spent efficiently. Applications that do not provide a real reflection of costs will be rejected. More information about projects we are or have previously supported can be found at www.upp-foundation.org.

Reporting

All successful applicants will be asked to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). As part of the MOU, the UPP Foundation requires all successful applicants to measure monitor and evaluate the impact of the funded project and report back to the UPP Foundation in a timely manner. Details of the reporting requirement will be included in the MOU.

If you would like to apply to the UPP Foundation and your proposed bid meets the project and organisation criteria, you can download and submit an application form at upp-foundation.org/download-grant-application-form.

