

Societies grant criteria for 2025

The University of Oulu's Student Union (OYY) gives grants to subject and hobby organizations operating in its umbrella for their general activities once a year. OYY's board annually decides the application period at its meeting, which ends in 2025 11.5. at 11:59 p.m. The grant application form must be answered by the deadline. The grant amount is determined according to the association's activities in accordance with the criteria listed below. OYY can use its discretion when granting grants.

Organizations entitled to operational grants:

Those hobby societies and subject societies that are registered associations and have registered that they operate within OYY are entitled to the operating subsidy.

Conditions for awarding an operating grant:

- The membership commits to OYY's values (openness, courage, influence, communality and sustainability)
- The operation and rules of the society are such that OYY can accept them
- The society's activities do not conflict with OYY's strategy or equality and equity plan
- The society reminds its members to subscribe to OYY's weekly newsletter and OYY appears in the aided society's communications in accordance with good aid practice (e.g. website & social media)
- The organization's representatives regularly participate in society trainings organized by OYY
- The society's financial manager has been trained in his role and the organization's board is up to date on the association's financial situation
- In the society's events, equality and accessibility aspects have been taken into account
- The society is not a political party association (Act on Political Parties § 8 b Restrictions on support)

Fulfillment of the conditions may affect the society's grant amount for the following year.

OYY's rights when distributing subsidies and recovery of subsidies

The student union of the University of Oulu has the right to check the applicant's accounting, financial use and related documents. Proof of expenses must be presented upon request. Grants granted can be recovered and the association's eligibility for grants can be denied for a limited period of time, if the grants have been used for a purpose other than that stated, the applicant has provided incorrect information, or the society does not comply with the grant application criteria it has committed to.

The society is always asked for an explanation of the use of grants before demanding a refund or denying eligibility for grants. The clarification request is sent to the board of the association and must be answered in writing within 30 days of the request being made. If necessary, the request for an explanation is submitted by OYY's board of directors, to whom the explanation is also addressed.

Determination of the grant amount

Annually, in OYY's budget, a total amount is budgeted for organization grants (€20,000 in 2025), of which 12,000 euros are directed to subject societies and 8,000 euros to interest societies.

The grant amount for an individual association is determined by scoring the activities reported by the applicant in the application. The points obtained by all applicants who applied for operational assistance in the same category are added together and the obtained number is divided into the relevant amount available for grants, resulting in a "monetary value of one point". The planning and management of operations, the realization of the previous year's purpose of use and the allocation of the use of funds are evaluated for each applicant. The association is notified of the aid decisions made.

The areas of activity to be scored in the application and their goals:

Communication of the society:

OYY encourages societies to openly and actively communicate their activities. OYY is also visible in the society's communications.

Development of the society:

OYY wants to support societies operating under its umbrella in their development work. The operation of the society is planned and the society has a long-term plan.

Cooperation:

OYY encourages the societies operating in its area to cooperate with each other in a diverse manner.(multidisciplinary and also between subject and interest societies).

Internationality:

OYY expects societies to communicate and organize their activities also for international students (both exchange students and degree students). When scoring the answers, we take into account those degree programs where there are no international students.

Advocacy (subject societies):

OYY expects the subject societies operating in its district to actively participate in the protection of students' interests.

Alumni and working life activities:

OYY encourages societies operating under its umbrella to carry out alumni and working life activities.

Openness and access to activities (interest societies):

OYY requires interest societies operating in its area that their activities are open and easily accessible to all OYY members.

Special activity:

OYY wants to support culturally significant activities in its area.

Projects:

OYY wants to encourage societies operating in its area to implement new unique projects.

APPLICATION

The application period in 2025 is (17.2.-11.5. (at 23:59)). The grant application will be communicated to the societies operating within OYY by email and will also be announced on OYY's website. The application attachments must be delivered to OYY by e-mail to the address community@oyy.fi. In addition to the attachments the society must deliver to the OYY it's up to date contact information. The application questions are attached to this set of criteria. Answer the application questions **concisely** and truthfully. One society can make only one application.

ATTACHMENTS OF THE APPLICATION

The association must submit the following attachments as an attachment to the grant application to the community@oyy.fi before the end of the application period (11.5.2025 by 23:59). If you have already submitted the same attachment before (for example, in connection with the previous year's grant application), you do not need to submit the attachment again.

1. a copy of the association register notice
2. action plan for the current operating year
3. budget for the current fiscal year
4. approved financial statement of the last completed financial year
5. activity report from the previous year
6. a copy of the valid rules of the association, unless they have been previously provided

More information: community specialist Viljami Viinikka, communityspecialist@oyy.fi

APPENDIX 1: Application questions

BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSOCIATION

The number of members of the society does not affect the scoring.

- Number of members of the association since the beginning of the calendar year
- Money passing through the association annually (total expenses + total income added together, e.g. expenses 500 + income 500 = 1000)

SOCIETY'S COMMUNICATION

OYY encourages societies to openly and actively communicate their activities.

- In what different ways does the society communicate its activities? (Websites, the society's own magazine, email list, social media...)
- In what ways does OYY appear in the society's communication?

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SOCIETY

Collecting feedback is important for the society's development. OYY wants to support societies operating under its umbrella in their development work.

- Does the society collect feedback on its activities? If you collect, in what way? How do you react to feedback?
- How does the board of the association develop its own and the association's activities?
- Does the society have a long-term plan?

COOPERATION

OYY encourages the societies operating under its umbrella to cooperate with each other (interdisciplinary and also between subject and interest societies).

- Does the association cooperate with other associations operating within the student union? With which associations? (Mention an example of current cooperation.)

INTERNATIONALITY

OYY expects subject societies to communicate and organize activities for international students as well (both exchange students and degree students). When scoring the answers, we take into account those degree programs that do not have international students.

- Does your association take international students into account in its activities? If so, how?
- Is the information about the association's activities in English? If not, why not?
- Are exchange students and/or international degree students recruited as members and active members of your association? If you answered no, give reasons.

ADVOCACY (Questions only for subject societies)

OYY expects the subject societies operating under its umbrella to actively participate in the protection of students' interests.

- Does your subject society keep in touch with the university's administration's student representatives? In what ways?
- Does your subject society have a board member or official responsible for study matters/education policy matters?
- Do representatives of the subject organization participate in OYY's student forums regularly?
- Does your subject organization have a board member or official responsible for social policy issues?
- Has a member of the subject association been a candidate in the previous student council elections?
- How do you assess the impact of your subject society's activities on students' well-being? What kinds of welfare-promoting events does your society organize?
- Does the subject association take a position and influence the problem areas affecting its members? If you answered yes, give an example of when this has been done.
- How does your society promote communality at the university?

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES & WORKING LIFE (Questions only for subject associations)

OYY encourages societies operating under its umbrella to carry out alumni and working life activities.

- Does your subject society have alumni and working life activities? What kind?

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES & WORKING LIFE (Questions for interest societies only)

OYY encourages societies operating under its umbrella to carry out alumni and working life activities.

- Does your interest society have alumni members? How do they participate in the activities?

Openness and access to activities (questions for interest societies only)

OYY requires interest societies operating in its area that their activities are open and easily accessible to all OYY members.

- How does your interest society actively recruit new members?
- Does the interest society organize events open to everyone?
- Is the activity, decision-making and administration of the interest society transparent and do all members of OYY have the opportunity to participate in them?
- How would Societies grant help to organize a new type of activity and take into account a wider target audience?

Special activities (questions only for interest societies)

OYY wants to support culturally significant activities in its area.

- Briefly describe how the activities of your interest society are special and how the association differs from other societies operating within the student union.
- How does your special activity affect your business financially? For example, does your interest society have paid staff?
- How does your society promote communality at the university?

Special activities (questions only for subject societies)

OYY wants to support culturally significant activities in its area.

- Briefly describe how an activity (e.g. an event) of your subject society is special.
- How does your special activity affect your operations financially? For example, does your subject society have paid staff?
- How does your society promote communality at the university?

PROJECTS

*OYY wants to encourage societies operating in its area to implement new unique projects. **Fill in this point if your organization implements a new project-based activity in 2025.** In order for the project to be taken into account in the scoring, it must support the association's statutory activities and it cannot be for financial profit, business or include the purchase of alcohol products. For justified reasons, the project may include the purchase of movable property.*

- Tell about the goals of the project
- Tell about the project's schedule and implementation
- Tell about the budget and financing of the project

OTHER POINTS

- Clarifications (you can justify any previous answer. Mark the point you clearly justify.).