UWE Bristol Community Fund

Turn your ideas into community impact

Have an idea that could make a positive difference in your community?

The UWE Bristol Community Fund provides grants of up to **£3,000** to help UWE students, staff and community organisations work together on projects that benefit local communities while creating valuable learning opportunities for students.

We support projects that:

- Bring UWE and community organisations together in meaningful partnerships.
- Create positive change for local communities.
- Provide opportunities for students to volunteer and develop skills.
- Enhance learning through real-world experience.
- Deliver benefits for the Bristol city region and surrounding area.

The Community Fund is supported by UWE Bristol and the UWE Bristol Fund held with Quartet Community Foundation.

Community Fund at a glance

- Funding available: **up to £3,000**
- Applications must involve a **UWE student or staff member** and a **community partner**
- Projects must benefit communities in **Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset, or South Gloucestershire**
- Supports volunteering, community learning and partnership projects
- Projects should contribute to one or more of UWE Bristol's RISE Beacons
- Applications begin with a short Expression of Interest form

Who can apply?

Applications must be led by a current UWE Bristol student or staff member and developed in partnership with a community organisation. We encourage both partners to shape the project together from the start.

Community partners may include charities, community groups, social enterprises, schools, local authorities, or other not-for-profit organisations. If you have a project idea but do not yet have a community partner or UWE person to work with, we may be able to help you find one. Contact us at communityfund@uwe.ac.uk.

Projects must benefit communities within the West of England region, including Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

What kinds of projects will we fund?

We fund new projects that involve UWE students in activities that create positive community impact while helping students develop valuable skills, knowledge and experience.

Projects may include:

- Student-led volunteering projects
- Volunteering linked to academic programmes
- Community-based learning projects embedded within courses
- Collaborative initiatives developed with local organisations.

Our priority themes: UWE Bristol's RISE Beacons

We are particularly interested in projects that contribute to UWE Bristol's RISE Beacons, our four priority areas for creating positive social impact.

Shaping Integrated Healthcare

Help build healthier, more connected communities. We welcome projects that support physical and mental wellbeing, reduce loneliness, improve access to opportunities or services, and empower people to thrive together.

Harnessing Creativity and Technology

Use creativity, innovation and technology to make a positive difference. Whether through the arts, digital tools, creative problem-solving or skills development, we support projects that inspire new ideas and help communities shape their future.

Enriching Culture, Place and Community

Bring people together and create a stronger sense of belonging. We fund projects that celebrate diversity, strengthen community connections, showcase local culture and heritage, and create opportunities for people to learn from and support one another.

Securing a Green, Resilient Future

Take action for a more sustainable future. We support projects that help communities care for the environment, tackle climate challenges, protect nature, reduce waste, and build the skills and resilience needed for a greener tomorrow.

How much can I apply for?

You can apply for up to **£3,000**.

Your application must include a budget showing how the funding will be used. Costs might include:

- Venue hire
- Travel and volunteer expenses
- Printing and publicity
- Equipment and materials
- Training costs
- Costs incurred by the community partner, including staff time where appropriate

We cannot fund salaries or staff time for UWE staff or students.

We encourage applicants to ensure that a fair proportion of funding supports the community partner's contribution, helping remove barriers to participation.

You do not need to request the full £3,000. We welcome applications for smaller amounts where appropriate.

How to apply

Step 1: Develop your idea

Talk with your community partner and think about the impact you want to create.

Step 2: Submit an Expression of Interest

Complete the short online Expression of Interest form.

Step 3: Eligibility check

We will review your idea and confirm whether it is suitable for the fund.

Step 4: Complete a full application

Eligible projects will be invited to submit a full application.

Step 5: Panel review

Applications are assessed by a panel of university, student and community representatives.

Step 6: Funding decision

Successful applicants will receive their award and any relevant conditions.

Before applying, we strongly encourage you to discuss your idea with us. We're happy to answer questions and provide feedback to help strengthen your proposal.

What makes a strong application?

Applications will be judged against the following criteria:

1. Will you work in genuine partnership?	Show how UWE and community partners will shape and deliver the project together.
2. Will local communities benefit?	Explain who will benefit and what difference the project will make (with particular reference to the priority themes).
3. How will students be involved?	Describe meaningful opportunities for students to participate and contribute. If you are planning to recruit student volunteers through the UWE Volunteering service, you should contact volunteering@uwe.ac.uk for advice before completing this application and refer to this in your response.
4. What will students learn?	Show how students will develop skills, knowledge or experience through the project.
5. Will the project create a lasting impact?	Tell us how the project could continue beyond the funding period or leave a positive legacy.
6. Does the project offer good value for money?	Demonstrate that costs are realistic and proportionate to the proposed impact. We expect that a project which asks for £3,000 will create opportunities for at least 8-10 UWE students.

If your application is successful

Grant payments can be made to a UWE account, a community organisation, or split between both as appropriate.

Funding is normally paid in two instalments:

- 50% at the start of the project
- 50% once sufficient student recruitment has been demonstrated

Successful projects will be asked to:

- Complete a short feedback report
- Share photographs and project stories where possible
- Keep records of spending
- Acknowledge support from the UWE Bristol Fund in publicity materials

Questions? Contact communityfund@uwe.ac.uk.