New Ideas Fund (NIF)

Feeling creative? The New Ideas Fund (NIF) is for funding the creation of innovative, creative events and activities. This isn't limited to ‘creative’ societies – Societies Committee have £2,500 a year to give to any type of society or committee, so get thinking outside the box!

NIF is open to all Societies and Working and Representative Committees.

What CAN you apply to NIF for?
- Up to £500 to fund your event or activity
- This covers any creative event or activity, which includes dance, music and art...
- ...but also includes any event which you feel is creative and offers something new for your society or committee
- 'Creative' societies or committees should show how the funding would be used for a new initiative (i.e. something different from your usual creative activities).

E.g. Funding would not be granted for Circus Skills' equipment for weekly events (a SEF application would be more suitable in this instance), however this could fund a new one-off performance that required new or specialised equipment.

We’d be able to give you money for things like:
- publicity and advertising, e.g. printing posters and flyers
- room hire
- printing publications
- hiring or buying equipment or costumes

The list goes on! Be as specific as you can when you write your application – let us know exactly how much money you're requesting and what you’d like to spend it on. Things like links to websites really help.

What CAN'T you apply to NIF for?

We’d love to be able to fund everything that societies and committees put on, but unfortunately there are some things that NIF can't cover:
- food and drink
- donations to charity and/or political organisations
- DJs and entertainers
- any costs relating to intra-mural sport
- travel and transport
- conference fees
- any costs relating to the International Cultural Evening
What happens once you've applied?

When you submit an application, it’s discussed by Societies Committee at our next available meeting (we meet every Monday evening). We look at all applications with regards to 3 main areas.

1. **Innovation & Enterprise**
   - Will funding from NIF help your society or committee develop?
   - Have you looked at other sources of funding, e.g. fundraising through RAG’s Adopt a Charity, or putting on a Give It a Go event?

2. **Collaboration**
   - Where you can, have you thought about how the funding will help you work with other societies, committees or Students' Union departments?

3. **Inclusion**
   - Will the funding benefit all society members, or as wide a range of people as possible?
   - Will the event or activity open up your society or committee to a new audience?

We’ll let you know the outcome of your application as soon as possible after our meeting. If it’s been accepted, the money will be in your A-Account within the week.

Applying after the event?

Please note that we do not accept retrospective applications to NIF, except in exceptional circumstances. If your society or committee is having money trouble, get in touch with us and your Societies Committee liaison will help you out!

Need help or advice on your application? You can contact Societies Committee!
   Email: societiescommittee@shef.ac.uk
   Facebook: facebook.com/societiescommittee
   Twitter: @SocComSU

So if you’re planning a creative event or activity but need some help with paying for it, apply for New Ideas Fund! Remember, you can get up to £500, and be as specific as you can when you apply.

The application form (along with loads of useful guides) can be found in the ‘Money, Money, Money...’ section of the Zone Online – just head to www.sheffieldsu.com/zoneonline