

POWER SHIFT 2026!

HOW TO APPLY FOR FUNDING FROM YOUR STUDENTS' UNION!

Most students' unions have money set aside to help students take part in campaigns and get training on issues that matter to them. Here are our top tips and some helpful information for how you can seek funding from your SU to help your group get to Power Shift!

IT WORKS!

People & Planet student groups have been successful in the past in getting funding from their SU to attend Power Shift. They've applied to their SU funds by demonstrating how their group that money will be used to help train their members to take effective action on climate and migrant justice.

HOW DO YOU APPLY FOR FUNDING?

Every students' union is different, and so the specific processes and funding pots available will vary depending on which university you attend. Typically, there will be two different budgets students can apply to for training and activism:

- Campaigns budgets
- Societies grant budgets.

You can take a look on your SU website to find out whether these budgets exist, how much money is available and how to apply for it, but the best way to find out is to contact someone at the SU. If your SU has a President, Campaigns Officer, Activities Officer or Societies Officer, get in touch with them and ask what money is available and how to access it. Sometimes there might not be a dedicated elected student officer, and you may need to contact a staff member instead.

THE APPLICATION

Most SU's will ask you to fill out an application and explain why you should get the funds you are asking for. Below are some elements that might be useful to your application, tailor them as you need!

1. Who is People & Planet?

- People & Planet is one of the biggest student activist networks in the UK and Ireland, campaigning for social and environmental justice.
- Its mission is to build an empowered generation of change-makers who are equipped with life-long skills, motivation and networks to be a force for change in achieving a more equitable and sustainable world.
- As a network of over 40 student groups around the UK and Ireland it is one of the best ways to connect with other student campaigners.
- Currently People & Planet coordinate three campaigns, Fossil Free, Divest Borders & Fossil Free Careers. Many universities have committed to our demands: over 75% of UK universities have committed to divesting from fossil fuels, 18 have excluded fossil fuel and mining companies from recruiting students on campuses and 13 have committed to divesting from the border industry.

2. What is Power Shift?

- Power Shift is a residential training event for students taking place 3-6 July 2026. Students will gain a plethora of skills and knowledge to help them take action on the issues they care about with workshops covering: Media skills, organising and promoting events, campaign strategy, non-violent direct action, lobbying, movement building on campus and more!
- At Power Shift, students will have the opportunity to learn from inspiring and experienced activists on how we can build a movement that looks to create a power shift from a politics of division to a politics of solidarity, and that fights back against fascism, climate injustice, violence against migrating people.

3. Will this benefit the SU?

- People & Planet has consistently been at the forefront of student campaigning. Students attending Power Shift will be meeting other student activists from across the UK whose experiences they can learn from. The lessons and skills they will learn will empower students to take an even greater part in the SU's and the university's democratic and political life.
- The training and skills that students will gain at the Power Shift will be a massive asset for your society and your SU for years to come. The training is not limited to People & Planet campaigns and can be used for any campaign or movement building.
- (It might be worthwhile to offer to write up a report from your Power Shift weekend for the SU so that they know that money was well spent!)

4. How much will it cost?

It is up to you how much you ask for. You can either apply for the cost of the ticket (which is already heavily subsidised by People & Planet), the travel cost or both. Work out the cheapest route and be realistic about how many people you can bring. **Early bird discounted tickets close on 15 May** so try to get your application for funding in before this date so you can book your tickets at the lower price. Be clear on how much it will cost and supply evidence. The pricing goes as follows:

- Early bird ticket + camping (bring your gear): £20
- Early bird ticket + camping (shared bell tent provided): £25
- Early bird ticket + room: £30
- Ticket + camping (bring your gear): £30
- Ticket + camping (shared bell tent provided): £35
- Ticket + room: £40

5. Does this relate to any SU policy?

Lots of students' unions have passed motions directly supporting the Fossil Free, Divest Borders and Fossil Free Careers campaigns. Attending Power Shift will give students a better understanding of those campaigns as well as equipping them with the skills to directly implement the motions passed by the SU. This is especially useful when applying for the SU campaigns budget.

MISSED THE DEADLINE?

If you've missed the deadline or the SU only gives out grants at set points in the year it might be worth contacting the student officer or staff member responsible and have a sit down meeting to see if an exception can be made. You could also suggest using a small part of the SU training/ travel budget.

SU DOESN'T HAVE A FUND?

Universities will often have alumni funds or development funds for student activities. A bit of crafty online searching should let you know if your group is eligible. Think about asking other organisations in your town or city. Trade unions based at your university might be willing to contribute. Likewise, many environmental groups, social justice groups and religious organisations might be willing to help. If none of these are an option and you have no way of paying yourself then People & Planet has a limited access fund that you can apply for. To find out more contact powershift@peopleandplanet.org