



Getting your Students' Union to fund you to come to Power Shift 2020 – Training for Change

Students' Unions exist to support students in defending and extend the rights of students, and engage in campaigning and advocacy work to do this. They also support students carrying out campaigns on other issues that are important to them, often through establishing student run societies.

This means that most Students' Unions have money set aside to help students take part in campaigns and get training on issues that effect you and the world around you.

It works!

Last year Plymouth People & Planet have secured enough funding for **three members of their society** to come to Power Shift. They've applied by demonstrating how the society will use the money to pay for Power Shift tickets to help train their members to take effective action and get their university to go Sweatshop Free.

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 or a write a letter explaining why you should get

the funds you are asking for. We have some ideas but this list is not exhaustive and they may ask you something different. Tailor it to your needs and the application:

1. Who Are People & Planet?

- People & Planet are the biggest student activist network in the UK and Ireland, campaigning to protect the environment, defend human rights and end world poverty. People & Planet has been a major part of the student movement since 1969.
- As a network of over **50 student groups** around the UK and Ireland it is one of the best ways to connect with other student campaigners.
- Currently People & Planet coordinate four campaigns, **Fossil Free, Divest Barclays, Undoing Borders & Sweatshop Free.**
- In the last few years, People & Planet have successfully pushed for half of all UK Universities to divest from the fossil fuel industry; got every university and college in Scotland to take action against sweatshops in the electronics they purchase, along with 9 universities in England & Wales; and built a network of students resisting the damaging rhetoric surrounding migration and the role universities play in supporting anti-migrant policies and sentiment.

2. What is Power Shift – Training for Change?

- Power Shift is a **5 day training event** for students all around UK and Ireland. Students will gain a plethora of skills 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 from across the globe 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 xenophobia, climate injustice and worker rights abuses.

3. Will This Benefit the SU?

- People & Planet have 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 and bringing back to support the SU's campaigns. They will also receive extensive training which will be invaluable to the activism the SU supports.
- The training and skills that students will gain at the Summer Gathering 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 for the SU so that they know that money was well spent.

4. How Much Will This 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. Be clear on how much it will cost and supply evidence.

Early Bird Ticket Price: £42 (plus booking fee)

Standard Ticket Price: £50 (plus booking fee)

Solidarity Ticket Price: £65 (plus booking fee)

5. Does this relate to any SU policy?

Lots of Students' Unions have passed policies directly supporting the Fossil Free and Sweatshop Free 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 policies passed by the SU. ****Note** 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. Alternatively you could suggest using a small part of the SU training or travel budget.

Your 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 or college might be willing to contribute. Likewise, many environmental groups, social justice groups and religious organisations see the benefit of young people having the skills necessary to challenge power and authority. If none of these are an option and you have no way of paying yourself then People & Planet do have a limited hardship fund that you can apply for.

We also have a [fundraising guide](#), with ideas on how you could raise money for people in your group to come to Power Shift. In the past students have organised fundraising events, such as a comedy night, and managed to raise enough money to pay for the travel and tickets costs to attend the event.

To find out more, and ask for further help, contact **powershift@peopleandplanet.org**