

Attachment: Clusters and Quality Characteristics (CK18)

Introduction

To distribute the funding for the activities of student associations allocated by the Executive Board, CUOS groups each of the applicant organizations under one or more clusters, whereby each cluster has been accorded certain quality characteristics.

In accordance with Article 8 of the CUOS Regulations, the following organizations are ineligible for activity grants:

- organizations that fail to reflect positively on the University and the student body in general
- organizations with commercial interests
- organizations that receive adequate funding from other bodies, including the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science
- organizations with a political affiliation
- national organizations to which the University population makes neither an administrative nor a substantive contribution

The quality characteristics have been developed to reflect the fact that, in addition to education and research, the University believes its students should also be able to develop their talents through extracurricular activities and active memberships of organizations.

The clusters and their corresponding definitions are provided in the following paragraphs. An organization is in principle grouped under a single cluster, although CUOS may decide to make an exception if an organization fully meets the definition of more than one cluster and a substantial part of the activity programme falls under each of these clusters. It is not the intention to allocate a fixed part of the grant to each cluster.

Each cluster has been accorded quality characteristics. These characteristics provide a guideline for determining the amount of an organization's grant. If an organization meets the criteria of more quality characteristics in a given cluster than another organization, or performs better in those characteristics, the former organization will in principle be eligible for a higher activity grant. The characteristics are not ordered by priority and no model is used to calculate the grant that applies to each characteristic.

1. Umbrella organizations

Definition

Organizations whose objective is to encourage a given cluster of student development activities by:

- independently organizing activities
- actively supporting student associations in that cluster

Quality characteristics

- Provides all manner of support for student development activities.
- Provides all manner of support to various organizations active in the umbrella organization's cluster.
- Offers a wide range of professionally developed activities.
- Provides various courses under professional or semi-professional supervision.
- Has a high number of UG student members or otherwise affiliated UG students.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.

2. Career and job-market orientation

Definition

Organizations whose objective is to prepare UG students for the job market by organizing activities and/or arranging work placement opportunities.

Quality characteristics

- Organizes events such as workshops and lectures and provides information material about the job market.
- Contributes to the career services of one or more UG degree programmes or faculties.
- Has contacts and organizes activities together with the business community in the northern Netherlands.
- Helps students to start up their own companies; arranges and supervises work placements.
- Has a high number of UG student members or otherwise affiliated UG students.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.

3. Internationalization

Definition

Organizations whose objective is to encourage UG students to broaden their international horizons and encourage foreign students' interest and participation in the UG.

Quality characteristics

- Organizes lectures, debates, symposia and conferences to encourage students to broaden their international horizons.
- Organizes international work placements and exchange projects.
- Provides social support to foreign students.
- Has a high number of UG student members or otherwise affiliated UG students.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.

4. Ideological

Definition

Organizations whose objective is to encourage the ideological development of students in the broadest sense.

Quality characteristics

- Organizes a wide range of activities such as lectures, debates, conferences and services to encourage the ideological development of students.
- Encourages the dialogue between various ideologies.
- Provides activities to individuals and groups under professional supervision.
- Encourages UG students to actively participate in social debate.
- Has a high number of UG student members or otherwise affiliated UG students.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.

5. Representation of interests

Definition

Organizations whose objective is to represent the interests of individual UG students or the general student body.

Quality characteristics

- Organizes broadly interdisciplinary activities such as lectures, debates, symposia and conferences that encourage student involvement in the administrative agenda of the University or social issues.
- Provides legal and other counselling.
- Provides support to a student party in the University Council.
- Has a high number of UG student members or otherwise affiliated UG students.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.

6. Opinion formation

Definition

Organizations involved in the opinion formation of UG students through a medium:

- that is not intended for a specific faculty or degree programme
- that is intended for the entire UG student body

Quality characteristics

- The medium reaches a significant part of the UG student body.
- The medium discusses relevant social issues from a student perspective.
- The medium is published regularly.
- The scientific (or popular scientific) level of the medium is demonstrably high.
- The medium generates its own income (e.g. through sponsors).
- The medium reflects positively on the University and the student body in general.

7. Other organizations

Definition

Organizations which do not fall under one of the aforementioned clusters that organize activities for the general student body.

Quality characteristics

- The activities reflect positively on the University and the general student body.
- Organizes or provides support to activities that are intended for all UG students at the request of or commissioned by the Executive Board.
- Has relatively high turnouts of UG students to the organization's activities.