

CUOS Regulations on Student Welfare Grant

CUOS regulations for providing financial support to student organizations for activities aimed at promoting student welfare.

Objective

The objective of these regulations is to encourage and support initiatives undertaken by student organizations affiliated with the University of Groningen that contribute towards improving student welfare. The University of Groningen wants to help student organizations to organize activities to promote student welfare by making a financial contribution.

Article 1 Definitions

The following definitions are used in these Regulations:

- a. The University, the UG: the University of Groningen
- b. The Board of the University, the Board: The Board of the University of Groningen
- c. CUOS: Centraal Uitvoeringsorgaan voor de Studentenorganisaties; Central Executive Board for Student Organizations
- d. The Regulations: the CUOS Regulations
- e. Grant: the financial contribution awarded by CUOS or the University of Groningen to facilitate the organization of activities relating to student welfare by a student organization
- f. Hanze UAS: Hanze University of Applied Sciences Groningen
- g. Organization: a student organization that represents the University of Groningen student community, defends and promotes the interests of University of Groningen students, is essentially open to all University of Groningen students and whose Board consists of students
- h. Financial year: the financial year of CUOS, running from 1 January until 31 December
- i. Student: person who is registered as such at the University of Groningen or a person who is affiliated with the University of Groningen as a PhD student

Article 2 General conditions for student organizations

- a. The organization is a student organization in Groningen and has a legal personality and full legal competence, which is demonstrated by:
 - i. Articles of Association certified by a notary
 - ii. A current registration with the Chamber of Commerce
- b. The Articles of Association of the organization include at least:
 - i. The objectives of the organization.
 - ii. The activities of the organization.
 - iii. That the organization is a non-profit organization.
- c. In addition, the Articles of Association must state at least the following:
 - i. The organization represents the student body of the UG and/or Hanze UAS.
 - ii. The organization's executive board consists of students.
 - iii. The organization is in principle open to all students enrolled at the UG and/or Hanze UAS.
- d. The organization draws up a budget, an annual report and annual accounts every year.
- e. In the opinion of CUOS, the organization contributes to a positive image of the UG and/or Hanze UAS and of Groningen as a student city.
- f. In the opinion of the Introduction Period Advisory Committee (ACI), the organization complies with the agreements made in the UG and Hanze UAS Introduction Period Regulations.

Article 3 Total funding available

1. A maximum amount of €300 can be awarded to each organization; the total amount of funding that can be awarded by CUOS is €15,000. Applications shall be assessed in the order in which they are submitted.
2. An application can be submitted jointly by several student organizations. In this case, the requested amount shall be deducted in equal parts from the total amount of funding available to the applicants.
3. Each year, CUOS determines in its annual report the total amount of funding available for the coming financial year on the basis of available resources.

Article 4 Application procedure

1. Applications for grants can be submitted as long as these Regulations are in force (Article 14).
2. Organizations can apply for a grant by submitting a fully completed 'CUOS welfare grant' application form and the appendix specified therein, which can be found at www.rug.nl/cuos.

Article 5 Substantive assessment criteria

Submitted applications will be assessed by CUOS on the following points:

1. Content (quality and substantiation)
2. Objectives (the extent to which the activity is geared towards student welfare) and desired result (the extent to which the activity will have a lasting impact)
3. Target group and scope (size, need and additional range of activities)
4. Organizational approach and the results hereof (professionalism, feasibility and timeline)
5. Level and reasonableness of costs and revenues
6. Opportunities and commitment to generate own income
7. Ratio between the requested grant and own income and expenses

Article 6 Weighting factors

When assessing an application and determining the grant amount to be awarded, CUOS takes into account the following weighting factors:

- a. The extent to which the activity contributes to the well-being (mental, physical and/or social) of students.
- b. The extent to which the activity contributes towards creating connections between students and between students and the UG. This might involve connections with the UG's buildings and grounds, but also with lecturers and other UG staff.
- c. The extent to which the activity has a lasting impact.
- d. The target group of the activity, specifically the involvement of students who are new to the UG. In this context, 'new' refers to students who registered as such after 1 February 2020.

Article 7 Provisional decision

1. CUOS will inform the applicant of its provisional decision within six weeks of receiving the application.
2. A provisional decision includes:
 - a. The amount of the grant to be awarded.
 - b. Further details that the organization must provide and/or conditions under which the grant will be definitively awarded.
3. The grant is paid out once the decision to award the grant has been made.

Article 8 Justification

The organization must send an activity evaluation and a financial statement to CUOS no later than eight weeks after the end of the activity for which a grant has been awarded. The activity evaluation and the financial statement must include at least:

- a. Justification of the use of the received funding.
- b. An overview of the total number of participants in the activities.
- c. A brief evaluation of the activity.

Article 9 Reduction of the grant

CUOS is entitled to reduce the grant or set it at €0 if

1. In its opinion, the activities fail to sufficiently meet the organization's objectives.
2. The activities for which a grant was awarded have not taken place, either in whole or in part.
3. The organization has not properly accounted for or justified the activities undertaken and the associated income and expenses.
4. The organization has provided incorrect or incomplete information, while the provision of correct or complete information would have led to a different decision with regard to the awarding of the grant.
5. The amount of the grant was incorrect and the organization was aware of this or should have been aware of this.
6. The activities do not meet the obligations attached to the grant.

Article 10 Definitive decision

On the basis of the documents submitted pursuant to Article 8 and the possible applicability of Article 9, CUOS takes a definitive decision regarding the grant amount to be awarded.

Article 11 Views and objections

1. Decisions taken by CUOS regarding the student welfare grant are decisions on behalf of the Board.
3. Organizations have the right to lodge an objection with the Board within six weeks after a definitive decision has been announced, pursuant to the General Administrative Law Act (AWB; Algemene wet bestuursrecht). Objections can be submitted via the Central Portal for the Legal Protection of Student Rights.

Article 12 Unforeseen circumstances

All matters not provided for by these Regulations will be decided by CUOS.

Article 13 Citation

These Regulations may be cited as: CUOS Regulations on Student Welfare Grant.

Article 14 Date of commencement

These Regulations will take effect on 28 April 2021 and are valid until 1 September 2021.