Imperial College Union
Board of Trustees / 17 September 2025

Student Experience Fund

Author(s): Tom Gordon (Deputy President Activities)
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Purpose: To report on 2024/25 fund utilisation and request 2025/26 fund designation.
Decision: To approve

1. Introduction

The Student Experience Fund (SEF) was brought in for the academic year 2023/24 to provide financial support for widening participation students to participate in Union clubs, societies, and events. The fund was released for a second year this academic year 2024/25.

This paper serves to provide a summary of key information about the fund, and to request designation from reserves for ICU's funding of the 2025/26 year.

2. Student Experience Fund

Funding for the 2024/25 academic year was brought forward from the original funds provided by the IC Trust and Imperial College, combined with topped-up funding from Imperial College Union according to the breakdown in Table 1. Any expenditure from the Student Experience Fund is split between the three funding sources in the ratio 4:2:1.

Table 1 - SEF funding

Funder	Agreed Funding	Opening Balance 01/08/2024	Vouchers Used 2024/25	Closing Balance 31/07/2025
Imperial College London	£80,000	£29,592	£25,155	£4,437
Imperial College Trust	£40,000	£29,796	£12,578	£17,218
Imperial College Union	£20,000	£20,000	£6,289	£13,711
Total	**£140,000**	**£79,388**	**£44,022**	**£35,366**

3. 2024/25

In 2024/25 the fund was implemented for all bursary students again. The following metrics were used to evaluate the fund's performance this year:

i. Achieve a 30% increase in the number of students using the fund by the end of 2024/25
ii. Achieve a 30% increase in total spend by the end of 2024/25
iii. 80% of students who use the fund report a positive overall experience

In comparison with 23/24, there was an increase of 14% in the number of students using the fund, which is 48% of eligible students, and total spend increased by 23%.

4. 2025/26

Subject to funding approval the following metrics for 2025/26 to measure the fund's performance:

i. Achieve a 30% increase in the number of students using the fund by the end of 2025/26

ii. Achieve a 30% increase in total spend by the end of 2024/25

iii. Undertake an evaluation of the Fund in 2025/26 with 80% of students surveyed reporting a positive overall experience because of fund utilisation.

The Union has separately commissioned research into the barriers students face in participating in extra-curricular activities and will use this research to further inform our engagement work particularly with reference to communicating the fund. We aim to enhance our communication campaign regarding the fund, utilising targeted communications and case studies to encourage more students to use the fund. This will be part of a wider campaign and program of interventions to address barriers to participation beyond the cost. We plan to undertake an evaluation of the fund including students' perceptions of its impact on their University experience.

The Board is asked to consider approving the ICU allocation for its proportion of funding for 2025/26 to top the Student Experience Fund back up to the original agreed funding amount. IC Trust and the University have also been asked to consider the same approach for 2025/26. **ICU therefore request £6,289 to be designated from reserves (the Strategic Investment Fund) for the Student Experience Fund for the 2025/26 academic year.**