

FOBOS Information Document

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FOBOS, in Dutch, stands for Financial Support Special Circumstances of Students. This support ensures that if you have suffered a study delay due to special circumstances, you can receive a scholarship for this. Within FOBOS there are four types of scholarships, namely a top-level sport grant, a top-level arts grant, a force majeure allowance, or an activism grant. As the Student Union, we are responsible for the grant in the category of activism. An overview of the FOBOS in 2020 and 2021 including an overview of organisations eligible for receiving grants can be found in the [FOBOS regulations](#).

The Activism Grants are split up in 5 categories:

- Category 1: Activism that is easy executable besides your studies (next to your study week of 40 hours). No grants are given (yet) to activism in this category. E.g. students who are doing a part-time committee for not a substantial amount of hours a week or students that are leading a very small organisation.
- Category 2: Activism in this category is activism that is not easily done besides one's studies. For example part-time or full-time boards.
- Category 3: This is a special category with grants for special boards, approved by the Executive Board. For example, the Kick-In Committee, Create Tomorrow, etc.
- Category 4: This is special FOBOS for the student teams.
- Extra & Incidental category: The remaining grants are put in this category. This FOBOS is mostly available for committees or small boards and it is divided by the Umbrellas and the SU. Contact your umbrella for more information.

1. Admission to and allocation

To be eligible for receiving the activism grants, students will have to meet the conditions of the activism grants scheme. This will be checked by the registry. Any remaining activism grants from a student who don not complies with the conditions of the activism grants scheme cannot be reallocated. Below you can find an overview of relevant requirements that students should comply with in order to receive grants. Please read the [FOBOS regulations](#) for more information.

- **Student at the UT**: The bachelor's or master's student is enrolled as a full-time student at the University of Twente and pays tuition fees to the University of Twente.
 - The student has not been awarded a degree for the course for which he is enrolled. An exception to this condition can be made if the student is enrolled in a double degree course.
 - A student who is enrolled in a non-subsidized educational programme (except for the two-year master's degree in Geo-information Science and Earth Observation) is not entitled to an activism grant.
 - The student serves in a student organization to which the university has awarded activism grants, or the student organization is included in category 1 of the basic list in Appendix B of the FOBOS policy, thereby making the student eligible for a grant for extra and/or incidental activities.

- **Pre master students:** A student who is enrolled as a bachelor's student in a pre-master's programme is **not entitled to an activism grant**. Reason being, pre master students are enrolling in a trajectory to be accepted in a masters program and don't pay tuition fee, but a compensation per EC. Therefore, they are in the basis not yet a full time master student and are not eligible for financial compensation via FOBOS.
- **C+1 period:** The financial support period is limited to the **standard, nominal course duration plus one additional academic year (C+1)** calculated from the start of this degree course (bachelor's or master's degree) in higher education. When a student **becomes active after the C+1 period**, he/she is not eligible for grants. If a student's enrolment is temporarily interrupted, then only the months that the applicant is actually enrolled as a student in Higher Education will be counted. This applies to both bachelor's and master's students.
- **Grants for first year bachelor students:**
 - Calendar year 2021: For the active period from September till December 2021, students who serve in a student organization in their first year of a Bachelor's programme and qualify for an activism grant, in accordance with Appendix B of the FOBOS scheme, will receive the financial support once they have **received a positive binding study recommendation (BSA in Dutch)** for the relevant academic year. If the Bachelor's student receives a postponed binding study recommendation, the activism grant can still be awarded once the student receives a positive recommendation for the same course.
 - Calendar year 2022: From the calendar year 2022 onwards, students in the first year of a bachelor's programme are eligible for only up to a **maximum of 3 part-time grants** in total until at least 75% of the first year of this programme is successfully completed. Theoretically, students can spend time to get 45 EC's of their first year study program, and the remainder of the time can be spent to activism that will be rewarded. First-year students should focus on their studies in the first year. If they want to become active, they should do so, but the UT only compensates activism that can be done in addition to their studies. If they do more activism, the UT won't reimburse because the UT doesn't want to encourage or facilitate it in a student's first year.
- **Amount of a part-time grant:** The financial support for part-time activities (also called part-time grant) has been set at a fixed amount per activism grant. This amount will be adjusted with the increase in the tuition fees annually.
 - € 175 for the calendar year 2021
 - € 177,- for the calendar year 2022
- **Amount of a full time grant:** The financial support per activism grant for full-time activities (also called full-time grant) is **equal to the average tuition fees paid in the recognized period** with the value of a part-time grant as a minimum.
 - First year students: First year students pay half the regular tuition fee. When they get active in their second year, they get less compensation than they paid for during their board year according to previous regulations. They now get compensated for what they paid for during their active period/board year.
 - Tuition fee 2021/2022: The government decided that the tuition fee for students in academic year 2021/2022 is half of the regular tuition fee. To make sure full timers get compensated for the same amount as they would have been without the halving of the fee, **a minimum amount of for a full time grant** is determined

which will not be less than a part-time grant. This translates to approximately €2000 compensation for a full time board year. Because this tuition fee is halved due to possible study delay due to corona and students will spend the same amount of time and effort in their board year than previous years, active students should not be disadvantaged because they can also experience delay after their board year.

- **Extend of support:** The total remuneration of **24 grants up to a maximum of €8,000** applies to every student at the University of Twente during the total financial support period for the remuneration for extracurricular activities through activism grants. No more than 12 grants and/or months (being 1 grant per month) can be awarded per the calendar year for activism, top-level sports and top-level cultural activities, and Force Majeure Allowances collectively.

4. Obtaining credits

Full-time board members and team members cannot be expected to obtain any credits. Therefore, the full tuition fee will be refunded. **If the student does obtain credits, the full tuition fee will not be refunded.** For 5 ECTS credits obtained, 1 grant less (equivalent to 1-month tuition fee) will be refunded.

From 2022 onwards, an exception is made for obtaining a maximum of 2 resits up to 10 ECTS credits. When 15 ECTS credits or more are obtained, the grants are awarded as part-time grants. For the period of September till December 2021, this exception **does not apply**.

A board minor of 15 ECTS credits is designed to be taken alongside a full-time board year. For students who take part in that board minor, 3 grants will be deducted, but the remaining grants are not converted into part-time grants. If 5 or more ECTS credits are obtained in addition to the board minor, full-time grants are also converted into part-time grants.

See the table below:

Obtained credits	Grants to be deducted	Other consequences
5	1	
10	2	
15	3	grants converted to part-time grants
15 for board minor	3	grants will stay full-time grants
20 including 15 for board minor	4	grants converted to part-time grants

5. Application process

Activism grants can be applied for per calendar year because the financial circle of the UT runs from calendar year till calendar year. **No more than 1 grant per month** can be awarded in the active period. This means that grants can only be distributed to a student in the exact months the student was active. When your activism activities are continuous in calendar years, you have to request grants for the months you were active in 2021 now, and in January 2023 for the calendar year 2022.

For example, a board starting in September first receives grants for their active period in the first half year (September till December) in April. The second half of their grants for the active period from January till August will be received 1 year later, in April of the next calendar year.

The application process for activism grants is dependent on the category in which the application falls. The policy for the first four categories is reviewed every two years. This policy determines how many grants can be divided per sector.

Month	Action
December	The CPO will send an e-mail that the application procedure starts from January till March. More information on how to request grants will be included.
Jan – March	Application procedure period.
March	The CPO will check whether all students who applied are eligible for a grant. If a student is not eligible for a grant, the contact person will receive a message about this and he or she will have to send a new distribution.
Before April 1st	The students who receive a grant must confirm this before April 1st .