We support innovative creativity, helping students and staff create work that is environmentally and socially Just, enhancing student experience.

Objectives

- Promote innovative practice
- Support radical and disruptive ideas
- Provide timely and supportive funding
- Disseminate best practice
- Connect GSA disciplines and create art/science links
- Support extra-curricular activities allied to sustainability
- Benefit the efficiency of our estate

Outcomes

- Broader, deeper approaches to practice at the GSA
- A supported and expanded creative and academic freedom
- Better and more sustainable career choices and actions
- More cross-disciplinary practice and exploration of links beyond the arts
- A wider more diverse series of sustainability activities on campus
- A more energy and resource efficient GSA

Any GSA student can apply to the GSA Sustainability fund. As well as support for student projects, we also support innovative changes to our physical GSA estate (see 'other funding' below).

What Makes for a Successful Application?

The fund is open all year, but most funding is allocated by Semester 1.

Send us a PDF of no more than two pages of A4, minimum font 11.

Set out what you are intending to do, why, how and when. Say what the benefits will be to your practice and to others at the GSA, and how you will feed back (talks, online materials, your project work). Successful applicants typically think beyond what is taught in the curriculum, consider life-cycles of materials, might consider wider social and ethical issues, how we work with and might learn from others and other cultures, and link to other subject disciplines.

In deciding how to undertake your project, consider your own health and safety and have someone else review it to ensure you have covered all costs. You can add in a contingency.

Most applications are awarded around 50%-75% and typically we award in the region of £200-£250 maximum This money can be matched against other funders, which we can help you identify.

Health & Safety, Ethics and Balance

Each applicant has an obligation to ensure that what they are receiving funding or support for is safe, does not endanger others, and has positive ethical, environmental, social & cultural effects.

The applicant is responsible for adhering to all departmental and GSA H&S and ethical policy.

Every action has an environmental effect, and applicants, so we seek a balance between the effects of using materials or services, and the impact of the work on others. We can assist you in carrying out an environmental, social and ethical assessment.

Criteria

The Sustainability Coordinator will assess the application and work with the applicant to maximise the benefits to them and the wider student body. The applicant's work must support the values of the GSA.

The other criteria are the:

- best possible outcome within that student's development of their practice
- level of innovation and disruption to accepted thinking
- development level of the scope, purpose, method and reporting
- impact of the work, or future possible impact on students, staff or wider
- environmental, social and ethical impact of the work
- breadth and depth of the thinking and application of social, economic and ethical issues and impacts
- use of innovative partnerships
- cost-effectiveness vs. the environmental impact of the work
- level of additionality - would it go ahead without our support
- evidence of other funding or support at GSA or from other partners
- effective use of monitoring, and the reporting of results to others

We respond as quickly as possible, usually within a week.

The decision is final, but unsuccessful applicants may reapply with revised or new applications.

If you are unsuccessful we'll tell you why, and help you further develop your ideas and other funding routes.

Payments

As a rule, students will pay up front for agreed costs. Reimbursement is via the GSA expenses form and original receipts. In exceptional circumstances where students have insufficient cash flow, the group will support payments through our travel agency or direct purchase. This must be agreed in advance. You can claim retrospectively, for items you have already bought.

Feedback & Acknowledgement

The fund exists to inspire others, and to build a body of evidence and best practice. All applicants have the opportunity to blog on their work, there is no deadline for this. We need at least one JPG image attached to an email with text, word count up to you.

Where possible, we ask that you mention support and use our logo, in “black”: https://www.gsasustainability.org.uk/files/67d14eda23797-GSASBlackSquare.jpg, “green”: https://www.gsasustainability.org.uk/files/67d14ea7826df-GSASGreen.jpg or from an “EPS file.”: https://www.gsasustainability.org.uk/files/67d14ec48fcbf-GSA_Sust_id_black.eps

Other Funding

The SIAG can fund innovative energy and resource efficiency or air quality measures on the GSA estate that would not ordinarily be funded by the GSA. Any staff or student member is eligible to apply for funding.

Our website has a select list of funded projects and more information on the fund.

Any questions?

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