



Author Student participation.

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Student Support Fund: Emergency Fund

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1 Introduction

HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht (HU) offers financial aid to students who incur a delay in their studies for special reasons. This is described in the HU Student Support Fund. Who are eligible for this?

1. Students who, due to certain special circumstances such as illness, family problems, mental health issues, have incurred study delays during the period they are entitled to a student grant, may be enabled to complete or continue their studies as soon as possible.
2. Students who carry out recognised student representation activities during or within 12 months of the end of their entitlement to student grants, may be facilitated to do so from via the HU management support fund and receive a scholarship for student representatives.
3. Students who do not meet the nationality requirement (i.e. are not from an EEA country) but are resident in the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg or one of the federal states of North Rhine-Westphalia, Lower Saxony and Bremen of the Federal Republic of Germany may receive a knowledge grant, under certain conditions.
4. Students who combine elite-level sports with their studies can request various facilities. (For this, contact the Elite Sports Coordinator)
5. Students in acute financial distress may be able to request support via the emergency fund.
6. In certain cases, students can rely on the Tuition-free Representation Scheme. Students who perform administrative activities may be eligible for a financial allowance. This is a scheme where students do not enrol for up to one year but receive a financial allowance that they would have received had they been enrolled.

2 Emergency Fund Regulations

2.1 Introduction

Via the Emergency Fund, HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht offers help in case of acute financial distress due to unforeseen expenses of students that exceed their means but which they cannot reasonably insure themselves against. (Facility for supplementary support under 7.51g of the 'WHW' (Higher Education and Research Act) The Emergency Fund Regulations were adopted by the Executive Board on 16 May 2023, with the consent of the University Council granted on 5 July 2023, and takes effect from 1 September 2023.

2.2 Article 1: Basis and Amount of the Gift

Persons eligible for emergency fund payments are those:
who are enrolled as a student in a degree programme at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, and: are actually studying and have reasonable prospects of successfully completing their studies;

The financial emergency must meet the following criteria:
the situation must be acute and not foreseeable or preventable;
the situation must be incidental (i.e. not structural or of a periodic nature); the situation must be effectively solvable via one-off financial aid;
there is no prospect of any financial assistance in this emergency from other authorities (such as student financing, a special support scheme of the municipality, health insurance, rent subsidies, or payments under the '*Wet voorzieningen gehandicapten (Wvg)*' (Services for the Disabled Act)).
the problem must be limited in scale, as the Emergency Fund does not provide support in the form of with large sums.

Contributions from the Emergency Fund may not be intended for the payment of tuition fees.

A financial contribution is provided in the form of a gift with a maximum of € 500.00 per academic year, and a maximum of € 1,500.00 over the full course of the student's studies at HU University of Applied Sciences Utrecht.

2.3 Article 2: Procedure

Students wishing to be considered for financial aid from the Emergency Fund must submit an application to the Emergency Fund Committee via the student counsellor. The student counsellor can have a mediating role in the application.

In any case, the application must include at least the following details: the trigger that led to the financial emergency;
a description of how the student thinks the emergency can be solved/prevented in the future;
a description by the student of what other attempts they have made to solve the financial problems;

the expenditure for which aid is requested, with supporting documents for the amount of financial aid requested;
if applicable, the period for which financial aid is requested; and proof of enrolment at the HU.

The student counsellor will forward the application to the Emergency Fund Committee as soon as possible, but no later than five working days.

The Emergency Fund Committee assesses whether the student meets the eligibility requirements for financial aid, verifies the information accompanying the application and issues a recommendation to the director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S) as soon as possible after receiving the application, but no later than five working days thereafter.

The director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S) shall decide on the granting of financial aid, its form and the amount as soon as possible after receiving the application, but no later than five working days thereafter.

The student will receive a reasoned decision from the director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S). If the decision is negative for the student, the option of lodging an appeal within six weeks will be indicated under the decision. In case of a positive decision, the director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S) orders the payment of the amount granted. If there is a substantiated need for urgency, an emergency payment may follow.

The members of the Emergency Fund Committee and the director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S) shall appoint a deputy for themselves to take over the duties aforementioned in case of their absence.

2.4 Article 3: Emergency Fund Committee

The director of Education, Research & Student Affairs (OO&S) and a student counsellor appointed by the Platform of Student Counsellors together form the Emergency Fund Committee. If the elected student counsellor on the Emergency Fund Committee is the counsellor supporting the student, the student counsellor will be replaced by a permanent substitute.