

Community Challenge Fund

Information Pack
2024-25



What is the Community Challenge Fund?

The Community Challenge Fund is the central pillar of our Community Partners' Network Programme.

Through it, we are able to award small seed grants to local charities and non-profit organisations, to fund projects which benefit the people of Leicester and create meaningful opportunities for our students to engage with the community.

Community Challenge Fund



Our mission as a university is to discover gateways of opportunity that empower students, staff and our community to create a fairer society. Our vision is to create a community of participation, fairness and collective responsibility, transforming individual lives and championing a fair and sustainable society.

Crucial to the achievement of this is *The Empowering University* strategy, which guides the direction of our work, across the institution, and specifically in terms of public engagement.

The Community Challenge Fund plays a key role in supporting this strategy, by creating partnerships with a purpose, through which we may work collaboratively to invest in projects which make a true difference to the community in Leicester.

You can find out more about *The Empowering University* strategy [here](#).



What we're looking for...

The fund is specifically designed to support projects which meet the following criteria:

- The project should demonstrably benefit the community in Leicester.
- It should offer knowledge exchange, real-life learning or volunteering opportunities for our students.

We would particularly like to support projects which align with one or more of our key research themes:

- Peace, equality and social justice.
- Lifelong wellbeing.
- Creative and heritage industries.
- Living in a digital society.
- Net zero.



We can award grants of between £500 and £2000. Applications are open to all charities, non-profit organisations and community groups based in Leicester.



DMU Global Carbon Levy...

DMU Global, our award-winning international experience programme, has established a carbon levy for individuals who fly overseas as part of one of its trips. The funds generated from this will be used to support projects with environment, climate and social justice outcomes.

DMU Global sets an annual fundraising target, half of which consists of student contributions, paid through the levy, which is then matched by the university to make up the full total.

You can find out more about the DMU Global Carbon Levy [here](#).

This is a separate, additional allocation of funding, but may be applied for instead of or alongside the Community Challenge Fund, if your project has a sustainability focus.

To find out more about how to apply for this fund, please email engage@dmu.ac.uk with the subject line *CCF – Carbon Levy*.



How to apply...

We will be holding two application rounds during the 2024-25 academic year:

Round One

Applications open: Monday 24 June 2024

Applications close: Friday 26 July 2024

Delivery window: Monday 30 September – Friday 13 December 2024

Round Two

Applications open: Monday 2 September 2024

Applications close: Friday 11 October 2024

Delivery window: Monday 6 January – Friday 21 March 2025



Applications can be submitted using our online proposal form, which can be found [here](#).

We receive a large number of applications, so we kindly ask that previously successful applicants only re-apply for the Community Challenge Fund once in any twelve-month period.

Please complete the form in as much detail as possible, to give us the best understanding of your project. If you have any questions about the form, please email engage@dmu.ac.uk with the subject line *CCF 24-25 Application Query*.

Successful bids will...

- Specify a clear project purpose and target audience.
- clearly outline how DMU students, staff and alumni can get involved, with a focus on meaningful engagement, to align with *The Empowering University* strategy.
- Demonstrate how the project will be sustainable beyond the funding period.



Funding will only be paid into the bank account of a registered charity or non-profit organisation. Please note that we cannot award funding to private individuals. All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis within each funding round and the amount of money awarded in each case is at the discretion of the panel.

Applications will be accepted from organisations and groups across Leicester and Leicestershire, and all projects must benefit the local community. Small, grassroots charities and community groups will be prioritised over larger organisations.

We aim to review all applications in between 4 and 6 weeks from the closing date. All decisions will be based upon the criteria specified within this information pack, and the information submitted in the proposal form.

If we require any additional information, a member of our team will get in touch directly.

We are unable to fund daily running costs and the promotion of religious or political beliefs.



Successful Applications...

If your application is successful, we will contact you to agree upon the specific deliverables and delivery timeline.

Funding will be released within one month of a successful outcome, pending the confirmation of suitable payment details, and we will arrange regular check-in meetings to track project progress.

Following completion of the project, we will ask you to complete our impact assessment form, so that we can evaluate and report on the project's success.



Unsuccessful Applications...

Unfortunately, we are unable to support every application we receive. If your application is unsuccessful, we are very happy to provide feedback to benefit you during any future applications.

The university will not consider appeals and reserves the right to make funding decisions on a case-by-case basis.



Get in touch...

For any questions or queries regarding the Community Challenge Fund, or for more information on how to apply, please email engage@dmu.ac.uk with the subject line *Community Challenge Fund*.

