

Overleg Studieverenigingen StOF Allocation

General information

As you know, the FOBOS system will be overhauled and renamed to StOF (Studentenondersteuningsfonds). OS has been tasked to create a fair division for the grants allocated to the sector study, and this document serves as a proposal for such a division system. Over the past months, this proposal has been revised based both on feedback from the GMA and changes in line with Student Union policy.

The new system will be named Overleg Studieverenigingen StOF Allocation (OSSA). Within StOF, the number of grants to be assigned to study associations will be determined once every three years, which poses challenges with the way FOBOS used to work. This is partly why our proposal is different from the old FOBOS system.

The first section of this document will discuss the organisation and proposed division. The second section will discuss the implementation of this system, explaining the planning and role division.

OS Proposal

Involved Parties

End Responsible	Student Union
Advice and Right of Decision-Making	Organisation of Study Associations
Right to Information	OS GMA

Organisation and Proposed Division

In the email sent by the Student Union on the 15th of May 2025, called “*Update FOBOS/StOF*” , it is mentioned that board members are able to receive about seven grants per person, but with the current number of grants, we can increase this to eight grants per full-time board member. This means that full-time board members starting in September will receive $8 * 314 = €2512,-$. In the new system, there is no harsh reduction per earned EC like with FOBOS, but instead, StOF will work with a tiered system, based on the workload of boards.

We made this decision to make studying next to a board year more accessible, while still creating a fair system, as StOF is meant to compensate for study delay. The implications and requirements for this will be explained more in the next section.

Our proposal for the StOF division, OSSA, will function as a trickle-down system. The highest priority in OSSA is the compensation of study association board members. It is expected that only a small number of grants will be left after compensating all boards, though this number will vary each year. These grants can then go to a small selection of committees.

Board Members

Boards will be compensated using a system based on the workloads of individual board members. The grant allocation is explained in the table below:

Workload in hours per week	Number of grants per board member	Description of category
30+	8 (Non-EU: Waiver)	Full time board member
20-30	6	Board member first, studying on the side
10-20	4	Studying first, board member on the side
0-10	2	Focus on study

As you might notice, we chose to work with a tiered system instead of a hard limit between full- and part time board members. In our discussions with the SU and CES, we realized that having smaller increments will actually provide more stability in the number of grants available for Study Associations over time.

Besides this, OS will not ask you for substantial proof like logbooks to defend your hours, as we trust you will give an accurate indication. This is also due to the fact that one board member getting more grants does not mean another board member gets fewer grants. This does not mean that the applications are not checked at all. As will be elaborated upon in the chapter 'Implementation', OS will ask boards to communicate their workloads three times in an academic year. These workload checks will be held in October, February, and June. In case there are unexpected inconsistencies, or a board's answers are deemed unrealistic by the corresponding OS Faculty Representative, OS will first ask the board in question to elaborate upon their answers. In case no agreement is reached, the board in question can discuss the issue with the Student Union.

In rare cases, the workload of a board member may vary significantly over the year. In this case, the workload is taken as the average workload over the span of the entire board year.

Examples

There are two examples below, illustrating the calculation.

Example 1:

An EU board member answers in September, February and June that their workload is between 30-40 hours per week. The OS faculty representative for this board confirms this is accurate.

30-40 hours per week → 8 StOF grants

Example 2:

An EU board member answers in September that their workload is between 20-30 hours per week. In February and June, they answer that their workload is between 30-40 hours per week. The OS faculty representative asks the Board member to explain the increase in workload. In case it is agreed that the average workload over the entire year was between 30-40 hours, the Board member receives 8 grants.

30-40 hours per week → 8 StOF grants

Non-EU board members

Non-EU board members doing a full-time board year will not receive StOF grants. Instead, they will receive compensation in the form of waivers, which allow them to pay a reduced tuition fee. The section below was taken from the email from the Student Union, "*Update StOF non-EU students*", sent on May 21st. The italicised sections were added to clarify.

The waiver gives non-EU students an exception to their own tuition fee, allowing them to pay the EU tuition fee (216,75p/m) for 6 months. The other 6 months they pay their own tuition fee (1.083,33p/m). To explain it better in numbers:

EU tuition fee for 2025/2026: €2.601

Non-EU tuition fee for 2025/2026: €13.000

6 months waiver: €216,75 * 6 = €1.300,50

6 months non-EU tuition fee: €1.083,33 * 6 = €6.500

Total amount of tuition fee paid: €1.300,50 + €6.500 = €7.800,50

In total, non-EU students will be compensated with about €5.200.

In the case of a part-time Non-EU board member, they will receive grants just like any other board member.

NB: This is the proposal for compensation of full-time non-EU board members by the Student Union as it currently exists. Legally, it is not possible to give StOF grants to full-time non-EU board members. There are few legal options for compensating this group, which is how this proposal came to be. However, OS believes that part-time non-EU board members should be compensated more. Therefore, OS is currently advocating for a revised proposal. OS hopes to give an update for non-EU board members at the October GMA.

Committees

Grants that are left over after compensating board members will be used to compensate various committees. A few select types of committees may apply for StOF, as the number of grants available for committees is only a small fraction of what was available under the FOBOS system. Therefore, the complex system that was used for the Category 5 grants will not return with StOF. Four types of committees may apply for StOF, with a hierarchy between them. The number of grants that each committee may apply for is based on the average workload of these committees as declared for FOBOS in academic year 2024-2025.

First priority – Board Task Committees

The first type of committee to be compensated with the remaining StOF grants are Board Task Committees. This type of committee performs most if not all tasks of a specific board member, such as an External Relations Committee. They are often established by small boards that do not have the capacity to perform all board functions themselves. Board Task Committees are considered a first priority, as they are essential for the basic functioning of an association. This makes them unique among committees. Board Task Committees may apply for one grant.

Second priority – Study Tour Committees

The Study Tour Committee is considered a second priority. While not essential for the functioning of an association, it is generally the largest professional committee operated by a Study Association, and likely to cause study delay for its members. Study Tour Committees will be compensated with three grants per committee.

Third priority – Symposium Committees

The next priority is Symposium Committees, as this is the next major professional committee that most Study Associations have. As symposia are important for the external relations and profiling of an association, they are considered the next most

important committee to compensate. Symposium committees may apply for one grant per committee.

Fourth priority - Lustrum Committees

The fourth priority is Lustrum Committees. This committee too is very important for the profiling and social cohesion of an association. The workload is also relatively high compared to most other committees that an association has. Lustrum committees may apply for one grant per committee.

It is not guaranteed that there will be sufficient grants each year to compensate all of these committees, which is why this list ends after these four types of committees. If there is not a sufficient number of grants, Board Task Committees have the first priority. After that, the order is Study Tour Committees, then Symposium Committees, then Lustrum Committees.

If there are grants left but not a sufficient number to compensate all eligible committees, the grants will be distributed in the order of priority and then time investment. This will be checked by the OS board and the ABC, which will be kept in standby for these cases.

Examples

Two example cases are given below:

Example 1:

There are three Board task Committees, four Symposia, three Study Tour Committees and two Lustrum Committees, and there are 20 grants left over.

The Board Task Committees will receive 1 grant per committee, totalling 3 grants.

The Study Tour Committees will receive 3 grants per committee, totalling 9 grants.

The Symposium Committees will receive 1 grant per committee, totalling 4 grants.

The Lustrum Committees will receive 1 grant per committee, totalling 2 grants.

The remaining two grants will be left over.

Example 2

There are four Board Task Committees, two Study Tours, five Symposia, and three Lustrum Committees, and there are 12 grants left over.

The Board Task Committees will receive 1 grant per committee, totalling 4 grants.

The Study Tour Committees will receive 3 grants per committee, totalling 6 grants.

There are now two grants remaining, these will be granted to the Symposium committees with the highest workload. This will be determined via logbooks and proofs, like it was with FOBOS.

The Symposium Committees with the highest workload will receive 1 grant, totalling 2 grants.

The Lustrum Committees will not receive grants.

There are no grants left over.

Implementation

The realisation of StOF for 2025-2026 will be as follows:

In October, all boards need to hand in an expected work load for each board member and inform OS whether they have any StOF-eligible committees as mentioned in the previous section. *A format for this will be provided.*

OS will then make an indication of the initial grant division for the associations, which is only indicative. Together with this, the initial committee grant division is decided. These are then presented at the October GMA.

Even though the board grant forecast might be that all committees will receive StOF, please note that this will only be finalised towards the end of the board year. Therefore, it is best that these committees keep a logbook and proof of the hours in the logbook. The 'edge case' committees, so the committees that might or might not receive StOF, will be asked to hand in their workload of the past year before the end of May.

The boards will be asked to give an update on their workload in February and in June. February was chosen as the ET boards change in January and February, meaning that the February checkup corresponds with the start of their board year.

At the July GMA, OS will present the actual grant division, which will take the committee grants into account as well. OS will then send the division to CPO. After the board year ends, the boards will receive their StOF from CPO directly.

At the end of 2025-2026, OS will organise a feedback session regarding the StOF process of this academic year. This will either be held at the July GMA, or as a separate occasion.

Besides this, that academic year will also be the first to use the 3-year grant determination, meaning that the number of grants for next academic year (2026-2027) might change. This might also mean a change to OSSA.

A schematic overview of next year's planning can be found in the table on the next page.

Who	What	When	Deadline
Study Association Boards	Hand in workload of each board member	October	Halfway through October
Study Association Boards	Inform OS whether there is a StOF-eligible committee in their association	October	Halfway through October
OS	Create grant distribution for boards and an indication for the committees	October	October GMA
OS	Present distribution and edge cases for committees	October	October GMA
Study Association Boards	Hand in workload of each board member	February	Halfway through February
Study Association Boards	Send 'proofs' for the edge cases for StOF	April	May GMA
Study Association Boards	Hand in workload of each board member	June	Halfway through June
OS/ABC	Present final distribution	July	July GMA

Conclusion

Please note that this first year of StOF is also a trial year, and that aspects might change after the upcoming year.

If there are any questions, feel free to contact Leon (ctw@os.utwente.nl) or Victor (bms@os.utwente.nl).