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**The Vice-Chancellor’s Fund 2019**

**Application for Funding**

Please ensure that all of the fields below are completed before submitting your applications.

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| **PROJECT TITLE** | Transition project for vulnerable student groups |
| Amount being applied for £ | XXXX |
| Your name | XXXX |
| School, Club or Society | Student Support Services, SACS |
| Your position in above | XXXX |
| Contact address | XXXX |
| Phone | XXXX |
| Email | XXXX |
| If you are a **student** of the University (year, subject) |  |
| If you are a **member of staff** your department/school/  directorate | Student Support, SACS |

Please give a full description of the project, outlining key objectives (200 words).

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| Accessibility and Inclusion Services, Student Guidance Counselling and Wellbeing Services, Accommodation Services, and Admissions and Access would like to submit a collective proposal to offer a pre-semester transition event for new students with autism, visual impairments, complex mobility issues, and/or who are care experienced or estranged, and, who will be moving into UoS accommodation.  For the groups listed above transition into a University setting and independent living can be challenging. A positive start is imperative to these groups to ensure retention and ongoing success. In the past many students have been unable to remain in residence and/or have dropped out of university completely due to being unable to overcome these challenges. Specifically, the development of mental health issues are common in these groups and we want to take a proactive approach to introduce wellbeing strategies at this early stage, as well as provide a sensitive induction to services and facilities when the campus is quieter and not as overwhelming. Most importantly we want to create a feeling of belonging and encourage these groups of new students to feel empowered and supported to reach their potential.  Our intention is to pilot this initiative and offer an overnight stay in accommodation prior to move in weekend encompassing a programme of tailor made support sessions designed for each specific group’s needs. The content of these sessions will be directly informed by feedback from current students and best practice of other institutions who currently offer similar programmes. |

Please provide a budget/approximate costings for your projects (£) (200 words). Please also include if other funding has been secured or if you have applied for additional funding.

*Please be aware that applications may be only partially successful. In some cases money may be awarded for one aspect of the application only, or a contribution made, with the expectation that the difference is funded by yourselves*.

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| The cost of the project will largely be dependent upon the numbers of students wishing to participate but approximate costings based on 20 students as follows:   * Overnight accommodation x 20 students @ £XX/head = XXXX * Catering for 20 students @ £XX/head = XXXX * Specialist Autism Support Worker x 2 days = XXXX * Specialist Sensory Support Worker x 2 days = XXXX   Total = XXXX  Accessibility, mental health, student guidance, widening participation and accommodation staff will be provided by UoS.  A student summer intern has already been secured to assist with the organisation of this event which will be led by a combined team of staff from Student Support/Accommodation Services and Admissions and Access.  We are aware of the limitations of this fund and endeavour to apply for additional funding via independent funders who support care leavers and disabled students such as the Robertson and Snowden Trusts. |

How many students will benefit directly from this project?

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| It is difficult to anticipate exact numbers of students who may wish to participate, however we are already in contact with these vulnerable groups as part of our normal pre entry activities. If successful in our bid we can confirm accommodation and catering with Stirling Venues immediately and approach the identified groups to offer the programmes to c. 20 students. |

How many students will this project have an impact upon?

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| As a university we are committed to enabling students from all backgrounds and with a variety of protected characteristics to achieve their full potential and succeed regardless of circumstances.  We believe this proposal would send a strong message to all potential and current students that the University of Stirling takes feedback seriously, cares about widening participation, community, and inclusivity, as well as having a direct and positive impact on those taking part in the event. |

Outline the timeline involved for the project, and highlight if this project is of urgent need (200 words).

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| June 2019 – Student intern arrives and working group meet to book accommodation and catering, begin to develop specialist programmes, identify and book the staff required to deliver the programmes  July 2019 – Identification of potential students and booking of students to the events  August 2019 – Deliver project |

**CONDITIONS OF THE AWARD**

These grants are to enhance and enrich the student experience, and these are stories that we need to share with our donors, staff, friends and supporters of the University of Stirling. A condition of accepting this grant is that Project Managers must attend the Awards ceremony and must provide written feedback on the success of the project with a **minimum of three photographs** for future marketing purposes. We would also be interested to hear about how you feel that this project will offer positive publicity to the Fund and the University (200 words).

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| If successful, this collaborative submission will fund a transformative initiative and promote a very positive message to current and potential students of our commitment to our current enhancement themes of Transition and Student Experience and fulfil our ambitions of our Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy by;  *Developing the student journey focusing on particular groups of students at key transition points and fostering success via a world class student experience by ensuring students are “prepared”, connected”, “supported” “developed” and “organised”.*  *And*  *“Promoting a culture and environment that ensures staff and student wellbeing and mental health is respected, protected and enhanced, enabling all members of our community to thrive and achieve their potential.”*  The promotion of the project would state clearly that this was made possible by funds received from the Vice-Chancellors’ Fund, which would provide positive publicity to the Fund, and in turn, the University. |

**References**

Please note your reference must be a member of staff or previous employer – not a member of your committee/friend. If you are a student applicant, please include a reference from a member of staff from the Students’ Union.

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| Reference One | Reference Two |
| Name: XXXX | Name: XXXX |
| Position:  XXXX | Position:  XXXX |
| Address  University of Stirling | Address  University of Stirling |
| Phone | Phone |
| Email | Email |

**Bank Details**

Payment can only be made to authorised bank accounts. Payment is usually made to either the Student Union or Faculty account, to be distributed appropriately. **Payment cannot be made to personal accounts.**

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| Bank |  |
| Account Name |  |
| Sort Code |  |
| Account Number |  |