

REAL LIVES.
REAL MONEY.
REAL CHANGE.

Everything You Need to Know Before You Apply

What Is YouthBank?

YouthBank is a youth-led grantmaking model. A student team manages a real fund to support projects created by other students.

You set the priorities, motivate peers to apply, and decide which ideas get funded—gaining real experience in leadership, strategy, budgeting, and impact.

This isn't a simulation. It's real money, real decisions, and real change—led by young people, for young people.

A Proven Global Model

The YouthBank methodology has been tested and implemented in over 40 countries, supporting thousands of youth-led projects across the globe.

Motivated by the energy of youth-led groups using this model worldwide, we created this new package specifically for student unions and youth-led collectives—to bring the power of participatory funding directly to campuses.

What is this opportunity all about?

It's your chance to run your own youth-led fund!

If selected, your group will receive:

Full training and certification through the YouthBank Go! Package

Up to £3,000 in grant funding to run your own YouthBank

Ongoing support from national trainers and peers

You'll decide your focus, run a funding round, give grants, and support youth-led projects in your community. It's a real-world leadership experience — led by young people, for young people.

Who can apply?

Any youth-led group based in England can apply.

That includes:

- Student unions or societies
- Youth collectives or campaign groups
- Youth councils or advisory boards
- Informal or self-organised youth groups

You don't need to be a charity — just youth-led (age 16–25) and ready to take charge.

What will we receive?

Each successful group gets:

YouthBank Go! Package (Value: £2,000)

- A 26-session online training course
- Certification for your whole team
- Tools, templates, videos, and expert support
- Real-time progress tracking and peer learning groups
- The training takes your team step-by-step through the full YouthBank process, from team building to impact measurement

Up to £3,000 grant to:

- Launch your YouthBank locally
- Promote a call for youth-led projects
- Fund and mentor those projects
- Track the impact and celebrate the change

What will we actually do?

If selected, your group will lead and manage your own local YouthBank. That means:

- Complete your team training together (step-by-step, self-paced)
- Decide what issues matter most to you and your community
- Launch a call for youth-led project ideas
- Accept applications, conduct interviews, and select who gets funding
- Give out small grants, offer support, and track the results

You'll be the leaders, funders, decision-makers, and mentors with real money and real responsibility.

Two Roles. One Goal. Real Change.

In YouthBank, young people lead every step of the way. As a YouthBanker, your role is to manage and lead a local youth fund, researching your community, setting funding priorities, launching an open call, choosing which projects to fund, and tracking the impact. You also play a key role in engaging other young people and encouraging them to take part.

The young people who apply are called GroundBreakers (Youth Project Leaders). They respond to the priority you've identified by proposing creative, practical solutions to the challenges you've highlighted. With your support and funding, they turn those ideas into action and make real change happen on the ground.

Together, YouthBankers and GroundBreakers form a powerful youth-led cycle of funding and impact. One leads the fund. The other leads the action. And together, they drive meaningful change in their community.

What's the YouthBank curriculum like?

The YouthBank model has been around for over 25 years, empowering young people around the world to lead change.

The training is delivered in 5 interactive phases (modules) that your team completes together:

- Phase 1: Understanding YouthBank & Team Building

What is YouthBank?

Golden Rules & group values

Identity, inclusion, and building your team

- Phase 2: Research & Community Needs

Community mapping

Identifying local issues

Using interviews and problem trees to dig deeper

- Phase 3: Pitching, Power & Fundraising

Creating your own campaign or fund priority

Power-mapping and stakeholder engagement

Fundraising, crowdfunding, and pitching

- Phase 4: Grantmaking & Decision-Making

Designing applications and criteria

Shortlisting and interviewing

Ethical decision-making and giving feedback

- Phase 5: Monitoring, Impact & Storytelling

Visiting funded projects

Measuring change (data + quotes)

Reflecting and telling your story of impact

The training is flexible, fun, and designed for youth-led teams — no previous experience needed.

How many people do we need?

We recommend having a core team of 8–20 young people.

You'll complete training and run the fund together.

(Don't worry if you're a smaller group right now, you can recruit others as you go.)

What will we learn?

You'll build lifelong skills in:

- Leadership & public speaking
- Grantmaking & budgeting
- Interviewing & ethical decision-making
- Data management & impact tracking
- Fundraising & social entrepreneurship
- Teamwork & inclusion

How long does it run?

The training is self-paced, but most groups complete a full YouthBank cycle in 4–9 months.

Can we choose the types of projects to fund?

Yes — that's the best part!

You decide your local priority based on what matters to you.

Examples include:

- Mental health
- Sustainability
- Creative arts

- Inclusion & equity
- Youth safety or wellbeing
- ...

You'll set the focus, design the criteria, and decide who gets the grant.

We've never done anything like this — is that OK?

Absolutely!

You don't need experience, just motivation and teamwork.

The training takes you through the process step by step — you'll never be on your own.

How do we apply?

Application form: <https://youthbankinternational.org/open-call-england/>

Deadline to apply: 1st October 2026

It takes about 15–20 minutes to complete.

What happens if we're selected?

- You'll join an onboarding session
- Get access to the training and materials
- Receive your grant (up to £3,000)
- Launch your YouthBank and start creating change

Is this a one-time opportunity?

Not at all — this is just the beginning.

The support you receive is a starter package, designed to help you launch your first YouthBank and build your skills, confidence, and community impact.

But it doesn't end there.

Once you're part of the program:

- You'll have ongoing access to the YouthBank learning platform, packed with tools, templates, activities, and updates.
- You'll be invited to connect with other teams through the YouthBank International (YBI) network, joining a growing global movement of youth-led changemakers.
- We'll support you to keep your YouthBank going beyond the first year — whether that's by renewing your licence, finding new funding, or mentoring others.
- If you decide to continue your YouthBank after the first year, the licence is £600 per year (just £50/month) — and there are no retraining fees for new members who join your team later.

We'll also help you fundraise or connect with sponsors so your YouthBank can continue to grow and thrive.

Still got questions?

Email us: go@youthbankinternational.org

Lead a Fund. Fund the Future.

This is your moment to take the lead, back your peers, and build something real.

You've got the vision, we've got your back.