

Sydney University Law Society

Financial Grants Policy 2020

Equity Officer: Max Vishney (equity@suls.org.au)

1. General procedure

1.1 The provision of financial grants will be decided by:

1.1.1 The SALS Equity Officer; or

1.1.2 An eligibility assessment panel

Considering all the circumstances of the application.

1.2 All grants will be provided by way of reimbursement.

1.2.1 Unless the Equity Officer agrees otherwise, all applicants seeking a grant must provide a receipt as proof of purchase before payment can be made.

1.2.2 The receipt must contain the invoice number and ABN of the vendor.

1.3 Once a decision has been reached, there is no duty for SALS to give reasons for their decision.

2. Uses of financial grants

2.1 Financial grants may only be used for the following purposes:

2.1.1 The purchasing of textbooks, stationery or other study resources reasonably necessary as part of the student's studies within the Sydney Law School

2.1.2 Necessary costs that are incidental to participation in competitions or events endorsed by SALS

2.1.3 First Year Law Camp

2.1.4 Law Ball

2.1.5 Printing costs

2.1.6 Any other purpose deemed suitable by the Equity Officer

3. Application period

3.1 Unless otherwise provided, applications will remain open on a rolling basis throughout semester.

3.2 Applications for a financial grant in relation to a major ticket event, including but not limited to:

3.2.1 First Year Law Camp

3.2.2 Law Ball

3.2.3 Final Year Dinner

will be limited to a period commencing at the time of the event's marketing within any public communication by or authorised by SULLS and ending forty-eight hours after the event concludes.

3.3 Applicants must submit their application within the application period.

3.4 The Equity Officer has discretion to allow an application after the application period if satisfied that the applicant has a reasonable excuse for having not applied within the application period.

4. Eligibility criteria

4.1 To be eligible for a financial grant, the applicant must:

4.1.1 Be a member of SULLS; and

satisfy any of the following criteria:

4.1.2 The applicant is suffering financial hardship, where not supported by family, and not solely relating to:

Unjustified lack of employment; educational commitments; or unjustified misallocation of funds

4.1.3 The applicant has recently moved from another city, interstate or overseas, and is currently seeking employment

4.1.4 The applicant has experienced a recent family tragedy or other major setback of a personal nature which affects his or her immediate access to funds

4.1.5 The applicant has been acknowledged as disadvantaged by the government and is receiving Centrelink benefits.

4.1.6 The applicant has been found eligible by the University of Sydney for a bursary on the basis of financial need.

4.2 This section does not provide an exhaustive list of the criteria to justify the awarding of a SULLS financial grant.

4.3 Discretion to approve an application on any basis other than the criteria in this section may be exercised by an application assessment panel.

5. Maximum amounts of the reimbursement

5.1 All grants will be less than or equal to the maximum reimbursement for grants of that purpose.

5.2 The maximum reimbursements are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Stationery | \$30 |
| Textbooks | \$50 |
| Printing | \$20 |
| Major ticketed events | \$100 |
| All other ticketed events | The full ticket price |

Necessary costs incidental to participation in competitions and events \$60

5.3 Discretion to exceed the maximum reimbursement may be exercised by the Equity Officer.

6. Apportionment of the grant

6.1 If an applicant satisfies the eligibility criteria in section 4, the size of the reimbursement they may be granted will be apportioned between a minimum of 25% of the maximum reimbursement and 100% of the maximum reimbursement.

6.2 The size of the grant will be apportioned on the basis of:

6.2.1 The severity of the hardship suffered by the applicant; and

6.2.2 The number and value of reimbursements the applicant has received from SALS in that year

6.3 This section does not provide an exhaustive list of the bases upon which the size of the grant may be apportioned.

6.4 Discretion to apportion the size of the grant on any basis other than those in this section may be exercised by an application assessment panel.

7. Application assessment panel

7.1 An application assessment panel (“the Assessment Panel”) will be composed of the same SALS executive officers that compose an application assessment panel for the purposes of the Textbook Loan Policy.

7.2 Assessment panels will be composed of the following SALS executive officers:

7.2.1 The President

7.2.2 The Treasurer

7.2.3 The Vice President (Education)

7.2.4 The Vice President (Social Justice)

7.2.5 The Equity Officer

7.3 The Equity Officer is required to consult the Assessment Panel in relation to any assessment that involves the panel's discretion according to a section of this by-law.

7.3.1 The Equity Officer is not required to consult the Assessment panel in relation to an assessment that they have discretion to make.

7.3.2 The Equity Officer has discretion to make assessments provided for in this policy except where a section of this policy expressly provides otherwise.

7.4 All applications that require review by the Assessment Panel will be anonymised by the Equity Officer prior to their submission to the panel.

8. Ineligible applicants

8.1 At the discretion of the Equity Officer, an applicant will not be eligible to receive a financial grant if:

8.1.1 The applicant is suspected to have previously applied for and received a financial grant in bad faith, for example by

8.1.1.1 Receiving a grant for a ticketed event with the intention of selling that ticket

8.1.1.2 Providing false information in support of a previous application

or;

8.1.2 The applicant has grossly and unreasonably breached the terms of a textbook loan under the Textbook Loan Scheme

9. Confidentiality

9.1 All information provided by the applicant will be kept strictly confidential.

9.2 If an application must be reviewed by any individual/s besides the Equity Officer, the Equity Officer will anonymise the application before it is reviewed.