

Birkbeck Students' Union like most are reliant on the financial contributions of Birkbeck University. Universities are legally required by the Education Act to provide financial support to a Students' Union established for the benefits of Birkbeck Students.

Even though each Students' Union may look from the outside as different, many of the innerworkings and goals for students are shared. Therefore, Students' Unions are comparable. A few areas of the Union are independent to be able to be effective for students such as our Student Union Support team who can provide independent advice.

Our funding from the university varies depending on the work the Union takes on. However, most students' unions operate similarly, meaning core costs such as staffing and student support tend to be comparable. Differences in funding often come down to team size, student engagement, and the financial relationship with the university.

While we have been granted more space on campus, including additional offices in Birkbeck Central, our funding remains low in comparison to similar institutions. To ensure we can fully support our students, we need an increase in our block grant in line with other London universities.

The following analysis looks at Union funding from several angles to gain a more thorough insight into the financial and in-kind support patterns between Universities and Students' Unions.

Our competitors

Union	Block Grant	Per Student	NSS Score
London Met	669,959	44.27	75.8
Roehampton	660,000	51.58	74.3
SOAS	590,238	97.16	60.8
Middlesex	1,260,000	70.35	77.1
Kings College	5,143,000	125.30	66.7
Brunel	1,860,000	101.25	70.7

London Area

Ranking	Student Union	Block Grant	Per Student
1	Students' Union Royal Holloway University of London	£1,850,000.00	£ 142.25
2	King's College London Students' Union	£5,143,000.00	£ 125.30
3	Royal College of Art Students' Union	£ 367,900.00	£ 123.25
4	University of Westminster Students' Union	£2,389,000.00	£ 109.56
5	Goldsmiths Students' Union	£1,000,050.00	£ 106.96

6	Union of Brunel Students	£1,860,000.00	£ 101.25
7	SOAS Students' Union	£ 590,238.00	£ 97.16
8	City St George's Students' Union	£2,097,372.00	£ 96.50
9	University of West London Students' Union	£1,802,860.00	£ 93.05
10	Queen Mary University Of London Students' Union	£2,121,853.00	£ 79.50
11	Arts Students' Union	£1,820,202.75	£ 77.05
12	Students' Union UCL	£3,874,498.00	£ 74.78
13	Greenwich Students' Union	£2,044,222.00	£ 71.33
14	Middlesex University Students' Union	£1,260,000.00	£ 70.35
15	St Mary's University Students' Union	£ 404,000.00	£ 61.63
16	Guildhall School of Music and Drama Students' Union	£ 59,710.00	£ 55.54
17	Roehampton Students' Union	£ 660,000.00	£ 51.58
18	Courtauld Institute of Art Students' Union	£ 30,280.00	£ 50.05
19	University of East London Students' Union	£1,076,000.00	£ 47.93
20	London South Bank University Students' Union	£ 825,000.00	£ 46.18
21	Trinity Laban Students' Union	£ 55,539.00	£ 45.15
22	London Metropolitan University Students' Union	£ 669,959.00	£ 44.27
23	Institute of Cancer Research Students' Association	£ 9,625.00	£ 25.67
24	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine SRC	£ 8,000.00	£ 7.69
-	Union of Kingston Students	£ -	£ -
-	London School of Economics and Political Science Students' Union	£ -	£ -
-	Northeastern University London Students' Union (NUSU London)	£ 29,000.00	
-	Royal Academy of Dance Students' Union	£ -	

The average of Student' Union block grant in London is 1.14 million for 24/25.

NUS DATA

Based on the per-student allocation, Birkbeck Students' Union received a block grant of £471,500 for the 2024/25 academic year, supporting 8,274 students. This equates to approximately £54.04 per student.

In comparison with other London-based students' unions, Birkbeck's funding would place it between 16th and 17th in the ranking of per-student allocations. However, it is important to

note that several students' unions, including Birkbeck, have not disclosed their funding figures for this year. As a result, this ranking remains an estimate based on available data.