

## Call for Annual Study Access Grants 2026/2027

### for students starting YUFE's Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies at the University of Rijeka

#### 1. Subject of the Call

The University of Rijeka (hereinafter: UNIRI) awards annual study access grants to students of the YUFE's Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies whose starting university is the University of Rijeka (hereinafter: the Study Programme).

The annual study access grant is awarded to support access to the Study Programme and to reduce the overall costs of studying, including tuition fees, accommodation, meals, travel, health insurance, and other costs related to enrolment, continuation of studies, and participation in the mandatory activities of the Study Programme.

For the academic year 2026/2027, the total grant fund amounts to EUR 15,000.00.

The grant may be awarded in an individual amount of up to EUR 2,500.00 per student for one academic year.

Depending on the number of applications, available funds, and the identified needs of applicants, UNIRI may award grants in different individual amounts.

#### 2. Eligibility

Students may apply for this Call if UNIRI is their starting university in the Study Programme and if, in the academic year 2026/2027, they are:

- enrolling in the first year of the Study Programme, or
- continuing in a higher year of the Study Programme.

Students may apply regardless of their citizenship, place of residence or stay, obligation to pay tuition fees, socioeconomic status, or personal or family circumstances, provided they meet the conditions set out in this Call.

A student who continues the Study Programme by enrolling in a higher year in the academic year 2026/2027 may apply if, in the academic year 2025/2026, by 30 September 2026, they have achieved at least 50 ECTS credits and a grade point average of at least 3.50.

Exceptionally, a student who does not meet the required number of ECTS credits or the required grade point average due to justified personal, health, family, socioeconomic, or other exceptional circumstances may also apply, provided they continue the Study Programme by enrolling in a higher year of the same Study Programme in the academic year 2026/2027. The Committee for YUFE USS Grants (hereinafter: the Committee) may take these circumstances into account when assessing the application.

#### 3. Duration of the Grant

The grant is awarded for one academic year.

For each academic year, the student must submit a new application, in accordance with the conditions set out in the call for that academic year.

#### **4. Criteria for Awarding the Grant**

Grants are awarded according to the criterion of study accessibility.

If the number of eligible applications exceeds the number of available grants, priority will be determined according to the following scoring system, with a maximum of 80 points:

##### **4.A. Expected study costs in the academic year 2026/2027 (up to 60 points)**

###### **4.A.1. Tuition fee - up to 15 points**

- the student is required to pay a tuition fee of EUR 5,000.00 - 15 points
- the student is required to pay a tuition fee of EUR 2,500.00 - 10 points
- the student is exempt from paying tuition fees or is not required to pay tuition fees - 0 points

###### **4.A.2. Accommodation costs during mandatory Study Programme activities at UNIRI - up to 15 points**

When awarding points, only the expected accommodation costs in Rijeka or the surrounding area are taken into account, and only for the period during which the student attends classes or other mandatory activities of the Study Programme at UNIRI in the academic year for which the grant is awarded.

- the student must secure accommodation in Rijeka or the surrounding area for two semesters - 15 points
- the student must secure accommodation in Rijeka or the surrounding area for one semester or for a shorter mandatory period - 5 points
- the student has no additional housing costs in Rijeka or the surrounding area - 0 points

###### **4.A.3. Meal costs and access to subsidised student meals - up to 10 points**

Points are awarded based on the student's access to subsidised student meals in the Republic of Croatia in the academic year for which the grant is awarded.

- the student is not entitled to subsidised student meals in the Republic of Croatia, for example because they are not a citizen of an EU Member State and do not have this right on another basis - 10 points
- the student is entitled to subsidised student meals in the Republic of Croatia - 0 points

###### **4.A.4. Travel and mandatory mobility costs - up to 10 points**

Points are awarded for expected additional travel and mandatory mobility costs at YUFE partner universities in the academic year for which the grant is awarded, where these costs are not covered by an Erasmus+ grant or other available sources of funding.

- the student has two mandatory mobility semesters in the academic year 2026/2027 and expects to incur additional travel and mandatory mobility costs - 10 points
- the student has one mandatory mobility semester in the academic year 2026/2027 and expects to incur additional travel and mandatory mobility costs - 5 points
- the student has no mandatory mobility period in the academic year 2026/2027 - 0 points

###### **4.A.5. Health insurance and healthcare costs - up to 10 points**

Points are awarded based on the expected additional costs of health insurance or healthcare in the academic year for which the grant is awarded.

- the student is not a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland and is not entitled to health insurance or healthcare on another basis - 10 points
- the student is a citizen of an EU Member State, the EEA, or Switzerland, or is entitled to health insurance or healthcare on another basis - 0 points

#### **4.B. Additional circumstances affecting access to studies** - up to 20 points

Points may be awarded for additional circumstances not already covered by the criteria related to expected study costs, but which may significantly affect the student's ability to enrol, continue their studies, or participate in mandatory Study Programme activities.

Additional circumstances may include, in particular:

- limited ability to finance studies due to the financial situation of the applicant or their household. This may include, for example, low income, the number of household members, dependent family members, maintenance obligations, receipt of social benefits, or other similar circumstances;
- disability or health difficulties of the applicant;
- student-parent status;
- lack of adequate parental or family support;
- exceptional family or life circumstances.

An applicant who wishes additional circumstances to be taken into account must describe and explain them in the application form and provide appropriate supporting documentation, such as proof, a certificate, a statement, or another relevant document.

The Committee will award points only for circumstances that are clearly explained and sufficiently supported. In doing so, the Committee will take into account the comparability of applicants' situations and the fact that applicants may come from different countries and legal systems.

#### **5. Priority in Case of an Equal Number of Points**

When deciding on priority, the Committee will take into account the purpose of the Call, the principle of equal treatment of applicants, and the need to award the grant to applicants for whom the overall costs of studying represent a greater obstacle to accessing or continuing the Study Programme.

If two or more applicants achieve the same number of points, priority will be given to the applicant who has achieved a higher number of points under the criterion of expected study costs referred to in point 4.A of this Call.

If applicants are still tied, priority will be given to the applicant who has achieved a higher number of points under the criterion of additional circumstances affecting access to studies referred to in point 4.B of this Call.

If applicants are still tied after that, priority will be given to the applicant for whom the Committee assesses that not receiving the grant could more seriously affect their enrolment, continuation of studies, or participation in mandatory Study Programme activities.

#### **6. Application Documents**

The following documents must be submitted with the application:

- a completed application form;

- where applicable, documentation or other appropriate proof of the circumstances on which the applicant relies in order to receive points.

In the application form, the applicant must provide information relevant to the award of the grant, in particular information on tuition fees, housing, meals, travel, mobility, health insurance, socioeconomic circumstances, and other circumstances affecting the overall costs of studying.

For circumstances on which the applicant relies in order to receive points, the applicant must provide an explanation and attach appropriate proof, a certificate, a statement, or another document showing the relevant circumstance.

Supporting documents should normally be submitted in Croatian or English. Documents issued in another language may be accepted if the relevant information is clear. The University may request a translation or additional clarification where necessary.

As applicants may come from different countries and legal systems, different forms of proof may be accepted, provided that the circumstances on which the applicant relies are explained clearly and supported in a credible way.

All supporting documents must be clear, complete and readable. If a document contains more than one page, it should be uploaded as one file.

The applicant is not required to submit receipts for individual costs or documentation that UNIRI already has or can verify through official channels.

The Committee may request additional clarification or documentation if necessary to verify information, award points, ensure equal treatment of applicants, or prevent double funding of the same cost.

## **7. Grant Award Procedure**

Applications are reviewed by the Committee for YUFE USS Grants, appointed by the Rector on the proposal of the Study Programme Council.

The Committee has at least three members. Representatives of UNIRI involved in the implementation of the Study Programme, YUFE activities, study and student affairs, financial affairs, or other relevant activities related to this Call may be appointed as members of the Committee.

Committee members must act impartially and confidentially. They may not assess an application if they have a conflict of interest.

The Committee determines whether applicants meet the conditions of the Call, carries out scoring according to the criteria, and proposes the list of applicants to be awarded the grant.

The Committee may propose that the grant be awarded in full or in part, depending on the number of points achieved, the applicant's circumstances, and the available funds.

The decision on the award of grants is made by the Rector of the University of Rijeka.

UNIRI reserves the right not to award all grants if the number of eligible applications is insufficient or if the applications do not justify the award of a grant in line with the purpose of the Call.

## **8. Payment and Use of the Grant**

The grant is awarded for the academic year 2026/2027.

The grant may be paid as a single payment or in instalments. Where applicable, it may also be used to directly cover certain study costs, including tuition fees, depending on UNIRI's decision and the circumstances of the individual case.

The grant holder must use the grant for study-related costs. If they receive or expect to receive funding from other sources for the same study-related costs, they must indicate this in the application form in order to avoid double funding.

### **9. Obligations of the Grant Holder**

The grant holder must:

- remain enrolled in the Study Programme in the academic year for which the grant was awarded;
- fulfil their study obligations regularly;
- inform UNIRI of any significant change in circumstances that may affect their right to the grant;
- upon UNIRI's request, provide additional clarification or documentation related to the information stated in the application or to the use of the grant.

In the event of withdrawal from the Study Programme, loss of student status, suspension of student rights and obligations, submission of inaccurate or incomplete information in the application, or the end of the circumstances on which the grant was awarded, UNIRI may suspend payment or request repayment of the paid grant amount, either in full or in proportion to the circumstances of the case.

UNIRI may decide not to request repayment of the grant, in full or in part, if it determines that the circumstances occurred for justified reasons beyond the student's control.

### **10. Application Deadline and Submission**

Applications must be submitted through the **online form** no later than 19 October 2026.

Late applications will not be considered. Incomplete applications will not be considered unless the Committee assesses that the application contains only minor omissions that can be corrected by supplementing the application.

An applicant may withdraw their application at any time before the grant decision is made.

### **11. Publication of Results**

The decision on the award of grants will be published on the UNIRI website and/or applicants will be informed of the results by email.

For the protection of personal data, the results may be published using the application code or another appropriate identifier.

Applicants' personal data will be processed exclusively for the purpose of implementing this Call, deciding on the award of the grant, paying the grant, and monitoring the fulfilment of the grant holder's obligations, in accordance with personal data protection regulations.

By submitting the application, the applicant confirms that the information provided is accurate and that they understand that inaccurate or incomplete information may result in rejection of the application, cancellation of the grant, or repayment of the paid amount.

## 12. Final Provisions

For additional information, applicants may contact: [admission.yufe@uniri.hr](mailto:admission.yufe@uniri.hr), with “YUFE Call” in the subject line.

UNIRI reserves the right to interpret the provisions of this Call, in accordance with its purpose, the principle of equal treatment of applicants, and the aim of increasing access to the Study Programme.

*This Call is announced pursuant to the Decision of the Rector of the University of Rijeka, CLASS: 602-03/26-01/14, REG.NO.: 2170-137-03-26-4 of 24 June 2026.*