



# Cambridge Debating Funding and Selections Policy

Debating Officers

June 9, 2013

## 1 When can I claim expenses?

You may only claim expenses if you have been expressly authorised by the Debating Officers ([debating@cus.org](mailto:debating@cus.org)), or if you are instructed to judge a Schools round by the Convenor ([convenor@schools.cus.org](mailto:convenor@schools.cus.org)) or Deputy Convenor for Judging ([judges@schools.cus.org](mailto:judges@schools.cus.org)) of the Schools Competition. We will not be able to fund you in any other circumstance.

## 2 Speaking in the UK

If you are speaking at an IV or an Open within the United Kingdom, the Union will not only pay your registration costs for the competition, but will also reimburse you for your travel costs, minus a £15 personal contribution. As a condition of this funding, we will require you to minimise costs and make sure the following conditions are fulfilled:

1. You will need to buy your ticket under a 16-25 Railcard, which will remove  $\frac{1}{3}$  from the price of your fare. You can purchase one [here](#).

2. You will need to take the cheapest reasonable route; this does not entail walking to Aberdeen, but it does mean taking the X5 coach to Oxford as opposed to a train via London. A good guide as to a reasonable route and its cost will be provided by the Debating Officers, and you will not be funded for any more costly a journey without explanation.
3. You will need to keep your train tickets if possible, and if not your receipts, as well as any receipts for other forms of transport. Train tickets, if they have not been swallowed by the barrier, are to be preferred to credit card receipts, for the latter often do not specify where the ticket bought goes to and from.

To make your claim, visit the Cambridge Union Society office during office hours on a weekday and ask for an expenses form. You will need to fill it out and place it in the Debating Officers' pigeon-hole within two weeks of the competition, safely fastened to appropriate evidence. It normally takes about a week for us to process your claim and for a cheque to be issued to you via the University Mailing Service. If you have not received your cheque within a month of making your claim, please contact the Debating Officers.

### **3 Judging**

The same conditions as to appropriate costs and evidence as apply to speaking also apply to judging. The difference, however, is that you will be completely funded; no personal contribution will be required. If you are judging for a Schools round as opposed to an IV, your travel recommendations will be provided by the Convenor or Deputy Convenor for Judging of the Schools Competition.

### **4 International competitions and tours**

Tours, such as the USA Tour, are fully funded. On the other hand, for overseas competitions such as the World Universities' Debating Championship or for competitions where debaters will need to travel from overseas to the UK during a vacation, we may be unable to fund travel to the same extent as for domestic competitions. In such cases, the Debating Officers decide to what extent its delegation will be personally funded and

to what extent their travel costs will be covered by the Union. They will then release a funding policy for that individual competition which will take into account individuals' financial circumstances. Registration and accommodation costs are always fully funded.

## 5 Selections

The only criterion in which we are interested when selecting squads for the major competitions, namely the World Universities Debating Championship and the European Universities' Debating Championship, is the likely success of our speakers and judges in breaking. A priority is placed upon speakers' success over judges' success, and we prioritise the success of teams over that of individuals. To ensure that the very best of Cambridge debaters are selected, we invite external selectors from the forefront of the debating community in order to make these decisions. Subsequent to the selectors' appointment, these decisions are entirely delegated such that the Debating Officers have no say in the selections process beyond clarification of the selectors' remit.

For all other competitions, the Debating Officers select the entire delegation of both teams and judges. We consider the following criteria when making our selections:

- *WUDC and EUDC squads.* The most important competitions in the debating calendar are the World Universities Debating Championship and the European Universities Debating Championship. Between selections for Worlds in early Michaelmas Term and Worlds itself across the New Year, and between selections for Euros in Lent Term and Euros itself across the Long Vacation, we will prioritise those selected to speak as part of the Cambridge squad over all other applicants, provided they speak with their squad partners.
- *The extent to which the applicant has contributed to Cambridge Debating.* We have a spreadsheet in which we record debaters' contribution to Cambridge Debating in such ways as providing crash for the IV, judging at the IV or Schools rounds, volunteering (including senior convening roles) and running workshops, both for Cambridge debaters and for our wider access programmes. Those who have contributed most will be more likely to be selected.
- *Whether or not the applicant has been selected to speak for Cambridge recently.* To ensure that as many debaters are given a chance to

As far as possible, those who have not spoken recently will be prioritised over those who have.

- *Partner preferences.* So far as reasonably possible, the Debating Officers will take note of the partner preferences applicants have made on their forms when making selections. They will only be able to do so if each debater has written the other's name, and no other names, on the form.

As to the way in which we prioritise these different criteria, this will depend upon an assessment of the prestigiousness of the IV. For 'major' competitions such as the Oxford IV and the English Mace, we will prioritise applicants' likelihood of success, assessed through a combination of past performance and perceived ability. For 'minor' competitions, we will prioritise applicants who have contributed to Cambridge Debating, and those who have not spoken for Cambridge recently. The majority of competitions will fall somewhere in the spectrum between these two extremes, and will therefore have some slots selected for likelihood of success, with others decided by contribution and recent selections.