Yale *Planetary Solutions*

Planetary Solutions Student Funding Program

About Yale Planetary Solutions

Our work catalyzes planetary solutions through all that Yale is, from our students, faculty, staff, and alumni, to our buildings, collections, and campus, and all that Yale does—teaching, learning, researching, building, operating, convening, investing, and leading.

We work to highlight and expand Yale's positive impacts in the areas of climate change, biodiversity and ecosystems, and communities and society. We are dedicated to ensuring open exchange between Yale and the world, seeking opportunities to deploy solutions, explore ideas, and problem-solve across all scales and contexts.

Program Overview:

Yale Planetary Solutions (YPS) awards funding of up to $500 to support student-led initiatives that align with the YPS mission and meet the eligibility and evaluation criteria below.

Proposals for Planetary Solutions Student Project Funding are solicited in three cycles each academic year. Funded activities must occur within the academic year in which funding is awarded. If your activity, event, or project must take place later, YPS approval must be obtained in advance.

YPS expects to award up to eight grants per year, each up to $500.

Award Cycles for the 2026-2027 Academic Year
Cycle 1:
Applications Due: September 14
Awards Announced: October 14

Cycle 2:
Applications Due: December 11
Awards Announced: January 8

Cycle 3:
Applications Due: March 5
Awards Announced: March 19

This funding opportunity is competitive, with YPS receiving more proposals than we can fund. All submissions that meet the eligibility and evaluation criteria will be reviewed, and responses

provided within the time period noted above. Proposals that do not meet the eligibility and evaluation criteria will not be reviewed.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be current undergraduate or graduate & professional students at Yale University at the time of application and when funding is awarded.
- Funded activities must take place during the Academic Year that funding is received.
- Funded activities must support the YPS Mission, with organizers being able to articulate which lens(es) are most central to their effort. Read about the lenses in our 2024 Steering Committee Report.
- Funded events must be open to participants from multiple fields of study (for example, students from different departments, programs or schools).
- This funding cannot be used to cover individual student travel (such as attending a conference alone). Funding may support a student-led conference, workshop, or group event/project/activity that benefits a broader Yale (or beyond) audience.

Evaluation Criteria

The following criteria are used to evaluate applications:

- Relevance: How well does the proposal align with the mission of YPS? Which lens(es) does it most connect with?
- Impact: What is the potential positive impact of the project, event, or activity on the planet and people (e.g. raising awareness, building skills, connecting disciplines)?
- Feasibility: Is the project realistic and achievable within the specified budget and timeframe?
- Budget: Does the budget clearly explain what each cost is for and why it is necessary? Have the applicants sought support from other funding sources and considered how YPS funding, paired with additional support, can facilitate larger positive impact?
- Student Leadership: Does the project enable students collaborate and/or take on leadership roles?

Guidelines

- Funds must be spent within the academic year that they are awarded (July 1 – June 30). Students are encouraged to plan ahead, as unused funds cannot rollover to the next academic year.
- For conferences and events, the YPS logo should be included in marketing materials (with YPS approval of materials).
- After the project is completed, you must submit a short stewardship form describing how the funds were used.

- Media documentation about the project's impact (a short article, photos with detailed captions, a short recap article, or a short video) must be submitted to YPS upon completion for use on the YPS/Yale website and Yale social media.
- Funding will only be awarded to a given initiative once per academic year.

Allowable Expenses

- Engagement/speaker fees/honorariums, guest speaker travel and accommodation, catering, supplies and materials (e.g. print collateral), equipment, and fees related directly to the proposed initiative (e.g. venue or custodial).

Non-Allowable Expenses

- The request cannot include any salaries or stipends.
- Rent and household expenses such as utility bills, laundry, etc. are not eligible expenses and are not considered part of covered travel and accommodation for speakers.
- In general, we do not fund international travel expenses, including visas.
- YPS does not fund student airfare, hotel, or conference registration for individual participation.

Funds Distribution

Funds will be issued via a Yale account to the applicant's School or Department. YPS will contact the School or Department to determine which account the funds should be transferred to and will make the transfer. Awardees will work directly with their School or Department's Business Office to spend the award and process receipts.

All purchases will be reviewed by the home department's Business Office to ensure that expenses incurred adhere to Yale's purchasing policy. If a purchase does not meet Yale's purchasing guidelines, the relevant Business Office reserves the right to decline the purchase or reject the reimbursement.