



# **FUNDING & SPONSORSHIP**

## IFSA Guidelines

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## Introduction

As a global student-led organization, IFSA depends on external funding to operate, support its members, and organize international events. We are proud to be part of a network that is driven by student energy and volunteerism, but we also recognize that securing funding is essential to sustaining our work.

At the same time, IFSA operates within the environmental sector and holds itself to high standards of integrity and responsibility. This means we must be reflective about the sources of our funding and how they reflect on our values, mission and vision.

## Decision-Making and Responsibility

Funding decisions at the international level are made by the IFSA Board. For IFSA's annual event, the International Forestry Students' Symposium (IFSS), the organizing committee (OC) is responsible for securing their own funding. However, given that the Board is a co-organizer of the event, open communication is essential.

The financial situation of IFSS, including key funding partners, should be clearly reported to the IFSA Board and shared in the final report of the event. Transparency ensures that IFSA can collectively reflect on our financial relationships.

## Reflections on Ethical Funding

While IFSA cannot always choose ideal funding partners, especially given the financial constraints of a student-run network, we strive to be reflective and intentional in how we engage with sponsors and donors.

We aim to steer away from funding relationships that clearly conflict with our principles. This includes partnerships with entities that actively deny climate change or undermine scientific integrity, whose business practices are widely associated with environmental or human rights harm (such as the production of weapons), or try to influence what IFSA does or stands for.

Each funding relationship is an opportunity to consider not just financial needs, but also the message we send as a forestry student association. We believe transparency and open reflection are key tools for navigating this space responsibly.