Uni Fundraising
Calendar of Events 2018

January

New Year Party
Whenever you all get back to university it is always fun to arrange a belated New Years Party, there is no need for vast amounts of organisation. Get a free venue like a student union, arrange a bar or refreshments area and sell tickets in advance (as well as on the door for late attendees!). Spread the word with a bit of publicity/ Facebook/posters around your uni or halls of residence. Get a friend to sort out your music, have a party and re-enact the countdown to midnight!

End of Exams Party
We know that you all have crazy schedules and quite a lot of our volunteers are dealing with revision alongside fundraising, so why not have a celebratory event at the end of your school's exam period and sell tickets to the event. Any events you hold are a fantastic opportunity to sell raffle tickets too.

Burns Night (25th January 2018)
A Scottish tradition celebrated everywhere, why not host a Ceildh to celebrate?! Sell tickets and make some extra cash by setting up a Scottish-themed refreshment stand selling irn bru, tablet and haggis flavoured crisps! For a more formal affair, you could hold a Burn's supper with a sit down meal of haggis neeps and tatties, followed by some cranachan and a whisky tasting session.

February

Chinese New Year (16th February 2018) - Year of the Dog
Whether you have a Chinese themed party, a Chinese cookery night or simply a night in with friends and a Chinese takeaway, this is a fab way to make money - especially if you get donations for free meals or takeaways from local Chinese restaurants as raffle prizes. Remember that any events you hold can give extra business to local companies.

Rugby Six Nations (3rd Feb – 17th March 2018)
Project the games onto a big screen in your halls; charge admission and sell refreshments. Make an event out of it by writing off to your local teams for signed merchandise to auction off throughout the match and spread the word to your uni teams to get people through the door.

Pancake day/Shrove Tuesday (13th February 2018)
Make plans in advance to get free packs of pancakes and toppings, or make your own in bulk. Set up a stall with a little gas stove or microwave to make sure they are warm – you can sell them in a busy area around your uni, or set up a delivery service around your halls of residence.

Valentine Day (14th Feb 2018)
Always a good time to make money, as no-one wants to be alone on valentines! Sign up a Paddy McGuinness lookalike to host a Take Me Out event followed by a Fernandos style party! You can also go more traditional by setting up a card delivery service or selling roses on the day.

Ash Wednesday/ beginning of Lent (14th Feb 2018)
Save the money you would have spent on chocolate! Get a sponsorship form together and get your family and friends to support you giving up something genuinely hard for you! Make bets with friends to see whether you can resist your temptation (but make sure you keep to it!).

March

St David's Day (1st March 2018)
Welsh themed party embracing the stereotypes: leeks and daffodils, dragons, sheep and miners with a backtrack of Tom Jones, Shirley Bassey and all the other Welsh greats! Promote the night in advance, aim to fill a venue to capacity and charge an entrance fee.

Mothers Day (11th March 2018)
Students are generally a little forgetful with this holiday. Utilise this in selling cards/flowers/chocolates around your uiniversity. Always make a profit and get as many freebies as possible. Be imaginative - one low cost way to make money could be to make bouquets of paper flowers. Don't forget to look after your own Mum, too!

St Patrick's Day (17th March 2018)
Always a great excuse for a party, take packs of green face paints and sell them for a profit, or offer to paint faces yourself! Any cheap St Paddy's merchandise from Poundland can always make you money on the day and don't forget to sell raffle tickets to all those who attend.

April

Easter Sunday (1st April 2018)
Approach local primary schools after hopefully already establishing a good relationship (perhaps by giving an educational presentation) and find out if you are able to host an egg hunt, egg decorating competition, or easter bonnet parade within or between schools. Ask for 50p to enter and get local papers involved for some added publicity.

St Georges Day (23rd April 2018)
Research if your city has an event on and find out how you can get involved with this. This may involve you contacting your local council/Round Table/Rotary Club/Lions International. Fundraising from the public around shopping centres/markets can make a vast amount of money during holidays where there is a lot of added footfall. Display the Operation Wallacea logo to show your affiliation, and colourful Opwall posters to draw the eye of passers-by.

May

Barbecue/Pimms Party
The summer weather will hopefully will be on its way so try to get lots of refreshments like barbeque nibbles, ice-cream and jelly on the cheap and sell on to make a profit! You could either host your own BBQ in your garden with help from the 'rents or get ambitious and hold a large scale event in your university grounds.

June

Sports day
Have a look at the many sports events we have suggested in our A-Z and take your pick! Spend the day acting like school kids and hold an egg and spoon race, wheelbarrow race and all the old favourites, or go all out and hold a colour run! Charge for entry and source some small free prizes for the winners.

July/August summer holidays!

Just because it's your holidays, don't get complacent with your fundraising effort. Still meet regularly with your group if you can, plan summer events or concentrate on grants. When the weather is nice, take advantage and hold your outdoors events.

Car Washing
Far less unpleasant during summer months! If you contact a local hardware store or auto centre, they may be able to offer you free car washing materials in return for some advertising. They might even let you do the washing in their own car park as a way of luring in new customers.

Sponsored Events
This is a time of year when you are likely to see family and friends you don't see so regularly, so what a great time to get your sponsor form out. The weather's nice for doing your events, just make sure you planned them plenty in advance so that you were able to promote your good work whilst still in term time also, this means that you would have accessed the largest amount of people!

Newsletter/Flyering
Summer you have a nice amount of time on your hands so it would be great if you could make a newsletter or flyer detailing what you are doing. Take it around your neighbourhood and post it through doors offering to do car washing, odd jobs, etc., promoting the good work you are doing and appealing for support.

September

Return to university and start throwing yourself back into events! Take advantage while the days are still fairly light and weather still mild by continuing any summer type events. Start thinking about the approach towards Christmas, because it is a great money making season, so needs a lot of careful planning.

Back to university party
Take advantage of the fresh return to university, before you're all fed up of it already, and have a back to uni party!

October

Halloween (31st October 2018)
Oh the spooky possibilities are endless. Throw a Halloween party, create a haunted house out of your home or student union and charge entry (spiderweb it up, have a set route and get budding actor friends to jump out and scare people). Costume competitions are always fantastic fun and make sure to get a themed prize for the winner.

November

Guy Fawkes Night (5th November 2018)
If you can get it past health and safety regulations, what a great night you could have. Have a bonfire and fireworks display and make sure to serve hot soup, pulled pork baps and drinks.

Thanksgiving Dinner (24th November 2018)
Take inspiration from our friends across the pond and get people in the mood for Christmas. Invite all of your friends round for a big roast dinner, charge for the meal (it is a lot of work!) and add a little extra for yourself as profit.

December

CHRISTMAS!!

This is a great time to start your fundraising the right way. There are heaps of ideas you can use in order to maximize your fundraising during this merry festive time of year!

Christmas Delivery Service
Offer card or candy cane delivery service on your campus and charge for the service. You could make and sell the cards, etc yourself and deliver during a convenient time! Offer people a chance to be anonymous and send sweethearts a message.

Christmas Fair
Host a Christmas fair in your university, or approach your old schools and find out if you can have a stall at their fairs. Sell crafts, raffle tickets or charge a fee to wrap peoples Christmas presents for them! Take along some Opwall posters to let people know what you are doing and why!

Christmas Crafts
If you are creative, now is the time for the big sell on crafts! Make Xmas decorations, cards, gifts and sell, sell, sell!

Christmas Card Quiz
A great Christmas fundraiser which has been extremely successful in recent years is a Christmas card quiz. The idea is to write a quiz with a £5 entry fee (include a short description of what you're fundraising for), hi-jack your parents Christmas card list and pop a quiz inside each card. The winner of the quiz receives a prize and the rest of the donations go in to your fundraising account. This is a great way to reach extended family and family friends who perhaps don't have much of a presence on social media. You may find that some people might even return the quiz with more than £5!

Christmas piñata party
Ok so that's a bit ridiculous, but put a Christmas theme on anything you do and see it cheer people up! If you're doing a cake sale get Christmas cookie cutters, and a car wash sounds far more exciting as a Christmas car wash - you can even get some mulled wine air fresheners and jazz up the mirrors with some festive tinsel! Hold parties, sell mistletoe and get merry. The possibilities are endless.