

Report on Aurora Local peer-to-peer Student Support Services

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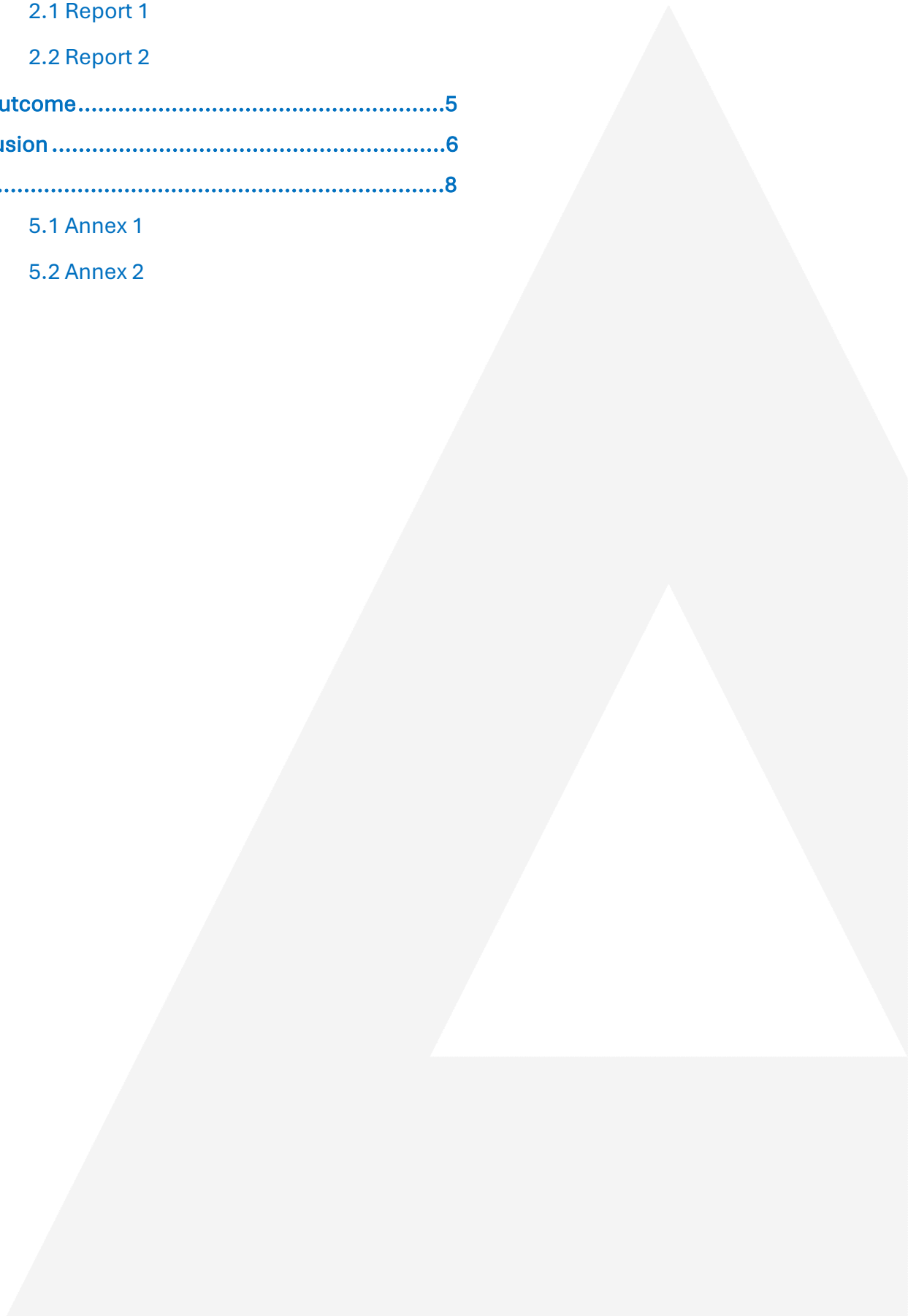
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1. Introduction

*This Deliverable report presents the work of **Task Team 7.1 – Coordination of Student Support Services and Engagement** within the Aurora European University Alliance. The team’s mandate has been to examine how students are involved in Aurora governance and activities, with particular focus on the Aurora Student Council (ASC) and their link to the Aurora Ambassador Programme. Our aim has been to identify barriers and enablers of engagement, compare practices across institutions, and develop shared approaches that strengthen student participation in Aurora.*

To achieve this, the Task Team (TT) has produced two institutional reports over the current period, the following two reports will be submitted in the academic years 2026/27 and 2027/28. The first report (October 2024) mapped remuneration practices for ASC members and the institutional challenges associated with implementing paid student positions. The second (September 2025) examined the administrative support structures available to ASC members and Ambassadors, focusing on staff-student interaction, peer-to-peer support, and integration with local governance structures. We will continue to work towards our stated objectives and monitor relevant indicators of progress in student support and how a holistic student community may be fostered throughout the following two reports in the coming years.

Rather than adhering to a fixed reporting template, we adopted a flexible methodology that allowed us to adapt the focus of each report to the evolving needs of the Task Team. This approach has provided a more comprehensive overview of student engagement, capturing not only financial and institutional barriers but also the broader systems of support that shape students’ ability to contribute meaningfully to Aurora.

The following chapters present the outcomes of this work. Chapter 2 provides a description of the methodology applied, the constraints faced, and the results obtained. Chapter 3 compares these results with our initial objectives and outlines where adjustments were made. Chapter 4 looks ahead, identifying next steps for ensuring that student engagement within Aurora is inclusive, sustainable, and closely connected to the Alliance’s long-term goals.

2. Description

With these institutional reports we manage to receive a holistic overview of the institutional realities we are facing at all our institutions and map out what support students are receiving locally. We then use our meetings within TT 7.1 to work from this information, sharing best practices and working on solutions to mutual problems we may be facing. These reports are turned in annually and the template is created jointly on a case-by-case basis, so we gather the information we believe to be most useful at each point in time. Originally, we intended to have only one template repeated annually but we found that did not meet our needs.

2.1 Report 1 (October 2024)

[see annex 1](#)

Our first institutional report focused on student remuneration and the work expected of Aurora Student Council (ASC) members. The aim was to map institutional practices and barriers related to implementing paid student positions.

Key findings were:

- **Selection procedures:** Four institutions (UDE, UPEC, VU, UIBK) select ASC members directly through their local student councils/unions; two (CBS, UI) have a partial link to elected representatives; three (UP, UNINA, URV) appoint members independently, without a governance link.
- **Remuneration:** Five (UDE, UI, UPEC, UP, VU) of nine full partner institutions provide financial compensation. Remuneration is not directly correlated with selection procedure—two (CBS, UIBK) of the four (CBS, UIBK, UNINA, URV) institutions without remuneration are linked to their local councils/unions.
- **Workload:** Non-remunerated ASC members generally contribute 2–3 hours per week. Paid members are expected to commit between 2–15 hours, with tasks including meetings with staff, coordinating with Aurora Ambassadors, and Task Team participation.
- **Board roles:** In most cases, no additional compensation is provided for ASC Board positions. Two exceptions exist: UP assigns differentiated salaries based on the students' role, and UI has granted additional pay for a student serving as ASC president (there is therefore a precedent, but the decision will be made on a case-by-case basis).
- **Support for conferences:** All ASC members receive funding to attend Aurora Student Conferences and the Aurora Annual Conference. Most institutions reimburse actual costs; one (CBS) applies a fixed grant rate.

- **Future outlook:** Of the four institutions (CBS, UIBK, UNINA, URV) without remuneration, two (CBS, URV) indicated that introducing paid positions is unlikely by the end of Aurora 2030, while two (UIBK, UNINA) see limited possibilities, contingent on systemic changes.
 - In the months following this report, URV has piloted ECTS credit recognition, with ASC members now being able to request 1 ECTS for their role.
- **Constraints:** Barriers to remuneration are primarily institutional. One partner (URV) reported legal hurdles at the national level and has since coordinated a national survey among universities engaged in the European Universities Initiative in their country to map shared challenges.

2.2 Report 2 (September 2025)

see annex 2

The second report examined **administrative support** for students in leadership roles, specifically ASC members and Aurora Ambassadors. The focus was on staff-student interactions, meeting frequency, agenda setting, and peer-to-peer support.

This report was answered by one associate partner, Pavel Jozef Safarik University Kosice (UPJS) in addition to full members.

Key findings were:

- **Meetings:** Most institutions hold regular meetings with ASC members to discuss student matters. Frequencies vary with institutions arranging meetings either biweekly, monthly, or four times per semester. Four institutions (CBS, UDE, VU, UPJS) rely on ad-hoc meetings, though one (VU) reports these ad-hoc meetings usually occur every 4-6 weeks. Two institutions (UPEC, URV) do not host specific ASC meetings, instead integrating students into larger Aurora staff meetings. One institution (URV) includes Ambassadors in meetings between ASC members and university staff.
- **Participation in wider Aurora meetings:** All institutions invite ASC members to larger institutional Aurora meetings, with students regularly contributing to agendas. The composition of these meetings varies from full-time Aurora staff to larger meetings including WP/TT leads and academics working on Aurora matters.
- **Access to staff:** All institutions provide students with easy access to Aurora staff outside scheduled meetings. Four partners (CBS, UI, UP, VU) have a designated staff member, responsible for maintaining contact with ASC members.

- **Communication with Ambassadors:** Email remains the main channel, supplemented by MS Teams (three institutions – CBS, UNINA, URV) and WhatsApp (four institutions – UI, UNINA, URV, VU). Informal platforms are often overseen by ASC members to provide peer-to-peer support.
- **Joint mobility opportunities:** All but one institution (UDE) reported ASC members supporting Ambassadors with mobility activities, in instances where both were travelling, for example to Student Conferences and the Aurora Annual Conference. The outlier is due to ASC inactivity at that institution.
- **Challenges:** The main hurdles identified include student inactivity (ASC or Ambassadors), difficulties in linking Aurora with local student governance bodies, and financial barriers due to limited mobility funding tied to the European Universities Initiative.

3. Discussion of the final outcome

As previously stated, adopting a **flexible reporting template** has allowed us to shift from monitoring incremental changes at the local level to gathering a broader, more nuanced picture of student support across Aurora institutions.

We also decided to **work jointly with Task Team 7.2** on student engagement, given the overlap in members of these teams and the shared focus on student initiatives. Joint meetings, co-designed agendas, and the integration of the ASC Board into discussions now provide a stronger platform for students to reach administrative staff and shape decisions affecting them.

Following our first report we have focused on:

- Ensuring student access to administrative staff.
- Developing local support structures.
- Strengthening the link between ASC members and Ambassadors.

Report 2 (September 2025) confirmed that remuneration practices and ASC selection procedures remain unchanged. Had we repeated the same template, the results would have been limited. By adapting the focus to administrative support, we were able to collect more meaningful data, highlighting both good practices and persistent barriers (notably student inactivity, weak links to local governance, and financial limitations).

This flexible approach ensures we capture the **full range of barriers to student engagement**, beyond financial aspects alone. It also allows us to generate actionable insights for strengthening student participation within Aurora and moving closer to our long-term objectives.

4. Conclusion

Building on the findings of our second institutional report, Task Team 7.1 is now entering a phase of **consolidation and forward planning**. Over the past period, we have made considerable progress in mapping student remuneration and administrative support structures across the Aurora universities, while also strengthening coordination with Task Team 7.2 to promote a more holistic approach to student engagement. At this stage, our work is increasingly focused on addressing disparities between institutions and creating a more coherent and equitable framework for student participation across the Alliance.

One key area of attention in the coming months will be the **appointment and integration of ASC members**. Institutional reports have shown that appointment procedures vary widely, with some universities linking ASC membership to local student governance structures, while others rely on independent selection. This diversity can create practical challenges, particularly around the timing of ASC Board elections and the level of continuity between representatives. In some cases, lack of alignment with local student councils or low engagement from elected representatives has also limited active participation in Aurora activities. To address these issues, the Task Team will **initiate structured discussions on the benefits and limitations of elected versus appointed models** and explore intermediate options, such as consultation mechanisms or joint meetings between ASC members and local student governments. These discussions will also consider the institutional and cultural contexts that shape student representation and participation. Alongside these discussions, we will hone in on **streamlining communication pathways** between student representatives and local support staff and explicitly outlining best-practices in **setting expectations** and **active information sharing** between students and university staff.

Closely connected to this is the ongoing issue of uneven student remuneration, which continues to affect equity and representation within the ASC. While some institutions offer paid positions or ECTS recognition, others rely exclusively on voluntary engagement. This discrepancy limits who can realistically take part and restricts the demands that can be placed on students who contribute in an unpaid capacity. Ensuring fair and sustainable participation will therefore remain a central concern, both in terms of policy discussions and in practical efforts to identify alternative forms of recognition. That said, there are aspects of student support worth celebrating, such as funded pathways to activity in international opportunities, such as student conferences and annual Aurora conferences, across all institutions.

Task Team 7.1 will continue to collaborate with Task Team 7.2 to strengthen the sense of community between Aurora Student Council members and Aurora Student Ambassadors. Our shared aim is to **build a more cohesive Aurora student**

community that extends beyond individual initiatives or isolated mobility experiences. Sharing good practices in organising local events and peer-to-peer support will be a particular focus, as will **developing clearer pathways for ASC and Ambassador collaboration in supporting short-term mobility participants**. Examples from partner universities include on-site short-mobility components of courses with national festivals, or integrating Aurora activities into other university activities, such as welcome days for international students. These examples will inform a more structured exchange of best practices over the next reporting period.

Looking ahead, Task Team 7.1 also intends to **open up the conversation beyond Aurora**, sharing our experiences and strengthening student engagement structures in collaboration with other European University Alliances. Building on national dialogues—such as the one initiated by URV—and international exchanges like those fostered through the ForEU4All network and the informal student engagement platform created following the 2024 EAIE conference, we aim to contribute to a broader conversation on student participation within the European Universities Initiative.

Finally, the Task Team is pleased to note that, for the first time, all associate partners are now represented by two ASC members. Achieving this level of inclusivity has been a long-term goal and represents an important milestone in our collective effort to ensure that every institution, regardless of size or status, has a voice in shaping the Aurora student community. Over the next 24 months, our focus will be on deepening these connections, improving continuity, and consolidating the structures that enable meaningful and equitable student participation across the Alliance. The first steps will be to try and **guarantee staff participation from all associate partners in TT 7.1** to properly map and increase student support available at all institutions.

Annex 1

Table 1

For Paid ASC Members							
Institution Name	ASC Member Selection Procedure	Tasks ASC Members Are Expected to Take on (e.g. WP participation, hosting events)	Is Aurora Work the Sole Responsibility?/Is Aurora accounted for in their contract/work responsibilities.	How many hours per week (on average) are students expected to commit to Aurora work?	Changes to Student Positions Since Aurora 2020	Are there additional benefits to taking on a role within the ASC board	Hurdles Faced in Implementing Paid Positions
UDE	Members of the ASC are members of the General Students' Committee. This committee is elected every 12 months by all students of the UDE. Previously, the executive board of the GSC was responsible for Aurora, since last year they decided to give this role to the department of University Policy and Politics.	We have no clear role description in place	It is an added responsibility. The department states their responsibility as the following: <i>The speakers for university policy and political education deal with political issues that are relevant to the academic institution in an egalitarian manner. This applies equally to topics that originate from within the university itself or from day-to-day politics.</i>	The two speakers have a contract for working about 6-8 hours on average for the department of policy and political education. Their work for Aurora must be included in those hours.	Yes, there have been various changes. In July, a new General student committee was elected. Just recently one of the two speakers decided to step down for personal reasons.		
UI	One ASC is professionally hired to work as the International Officer at the Students' Rights Office, the other is voted on by the Student Council as the Aurora representative. The University of Iceland is elected annually by the general student body.	The International Officer (paid member) is expected to be in regular communication with the International Division. That individual is expected to complete relevant tasks such as present student opportunities to the general student population, create social media content, take part in at least one TT, and organise local meetings between Aurora Student Ambassadors. Since the second member is not paid we cannot expect that individual to be responsible for completing a set number of tasks but they are always invited to take part in the tasks of the International Officer.	The International Officer has a 50% paid position, what amounts to a 30% position is dedicated to international students at the University of Iceland. What amounts to a 20% position is dedicated to Aurora tasks.	The International Officer is expected to dedicate what amounts to a 20% position to Aurora matters - 8 hours per week. Our second representative has no expectations from the University of Iceland's side but as a member of the ASC, they are expected to attend ASC meetings (1 hour per month) and will be invited to receive funding for Aurora's annual conference and student conferences.	The Student Council changed the position before the start of Aurora 2020. Before the change, another paid member of the Students' Rights Office held the second ASC member position. This was changed because the Student Council felt that the second member did not have the time necessary to participate fully in the ASC alongside their other responsibilities. Further changes to the position are being explored, in collaboration with the local Student Council, since this change has led to a discrepancy in whether our ASC members are paid	There is a precedence for an increase in paid hours for a student who has taken on the role of the ASC president. Whether that will become the norm is being explored alongside the changes discussed above.	The Student Council has a service contract with the rector's office and are, therefore, paid by the University of Iceland without being direct staff of the University. The position of International Officer was first added to this service contract in the academic year 2019-2020 (although the position has undergone some changes since then).
UPEUC	Choose by the institution in the bodies of elected or students participation in the ambassador program	Organization of Aurora events, WP participation, participation on internal Aurora meeting, take on the responsibilities of the ambassador program at the UPEUC level, make Aurora visible for students, creation of student workshops, talk to every faculties.	Yes, for one of the two position my contract name is "Assessor of the European alliance Aurora" And the second one is given to the student Vice president, so she has other responsibilities Aurora isn't her first task.	For the first position I would say 15h per week, for the second one as the position embedded a lot of think I would say 5-10h	No.	No additional benefits, but that fits perfectly with our contract at UPEUC as we have to get involved as much as possible in Aurora as it's my only task.	No, we have student paid position quite easily in France, and the system in each French university by having the student Vice president taking part in the political team of the president of the university makes possible to add an Aurora Assessor related to the student Vice President easily.
UPOL	At Palacky University, Aurora Student Council members are currently selected on the basis of an interview. Based on earlier performance in Aurora related activities such as the Student Ambassador programme, eligible students are invited to apply to the position and assessed based on an interview assessing their understanding of Aurora and the requirements of the role. Earlier attempts to align the position with existing elected student roles have so far been unsuccessful, but Palacky University will revisit the possibility of connecting at least one of the ASC-role to elected student positions. This would hopefully ensure that the UP ASC-members truly	The Aurora Student Council Representative is responsible for representing Palacky University Olomouc in the Aurora Student Council. They are expected to participate in the Aurora Student Council's online and in-person meetings, in the framework of TT7.1 and TT7.2. In the framework of TT7.2, the Aurora Student Council representative is also responsible for improving the visibility of Aurora among Palacky University's student community by helping in the organization of student focused activities, and spreading information about Aurora among students.	Aurora is the sole responsibility of these students, as they are contracted on "Service Contracts" (dohoda o provedeni prace), temporary limited contracts that are meant to remunerate specific, part-time activities.	We use three levels of remuneration for students, depending on the amount of responsibilities they hold within the framework of the ASC. For the standard position of "Aurora Student Council Representative" students are contracted for 4 hours per week, or 0.1 FTE, with additional rewards available for students that take on additional roles within the ASC.	The start of Aurora 2020 led to UP formalizing its different levels of remuneration for the student positions, as well as the associated conditions, criteria and job descriptions	We additionally reward students that take on additional responsibilities within the ASC: +0.2 FTE (8h/week) for students selected to be ASC Vice-president, Secretary or Communications Officer. +Students Elected in the role of ASC President are offered 0.3 FTE (12h/week)	The Czech labour system offers various possibilities for rewarding and employing students on a temporary basis, as such we faced no significant hurdles implementing paid positions.
VU	Aurora Student Council (ASC) members are selected from within the University Student Council (USR), which is elected annually by the student body through a student party. Once the roles within the USR are divided, the coordinator of the Communications Committee automatically becomes a member of Aurora and ASC. Additionally, the Communications Coordinator can appoint another member from the Communications Committee to join ASC. We currently have two Aurora Student Council members who receive a stipend for their role in the USR, and Aurora forms a significant part of their portfolio.	ASC members participate in Work Packages (WPs) at their discretion. They are actively involved in the VU Aurora community and promote Aurora initiatives across the institution.	Aurora duties are integrated into the job description of the Communications Coordinator and whoever else works on the communications portfolio. Overall, it is part of the broader responsibilities within the USR role.	On average, students spend about two hours per week on Aurora-related work. This may increase during busy periods or as needed for specific tasks or meetings.	Yes, in addition to ASC members, we now have a paid Student Assistant who works directly with the Institutional Coordinator and supports the Aurora Central Office on various tasks as needed.	No, all ASC members receive a fixed stipend regardless of the role they hold within the board.	Yes, the main challenge has been financial constraints at VUg University. The upcoming budget cuts are expected to impact all departments, including the funding for student positions.

Table presenting the results of Institutional report 1
Zoom to see results

Table 1: institutions with student remuneration
Table 2: institutions without student remuneration

Annex 1

Table 2

Institution Name	ASC Member Selection Procedure	Tasks ASC Members Are Expected to Take on (e.g. WP participation, hosting events)	If your institution has other paid student positions, could you specify what they involve. (If there are no paid student positions at your institution, type N/A)	For Non-Paid ASC Members		Is travel (Student conference, Biannual, etc.) covered for ASC members? If yes, what is included in that, is it a standard grant or real costs	Have student positions at your institution changed in the past years/since the start of Aurora 2030? If yes, in what way?	What are the biggest barriers your institution is facing when it comes to implementing paid ASC positions?	Do you find it realistic to expect that ASC members will be paid at your institution by the end of Aurora 2030?	
				How many hours per week (on average) are students expected to commit to Aurora work?	Do ASC member receive benefits to taking on the role or is the position purely voluntary? If yes, what benefits? (scholarship, ECTS, etc)					
CBS	The ASC members at CBS are appointed by the elected student body each year during. The past years the president of CBS Students was appointed as one member of ASC for CBS. The other member is another student.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Spreading awareness of Aurora at CBS Organising elections Participate in monthly update meetings with an employee involved in Aurora (TT 7.1 member) Participation and representation in conferences Meeting with Aurora Student Champions and Ambassadors 	The paid student positions are student assistants working with various aspects and projects within Aurora at CBS. Their tasks include administrative work, organising meetings and workshops, short-term exchange within Aurora, involvement in Aurora TT.	N/A	Other paid student positions require 11h work per week	These positions are voluntary. However, the ASC members receive travel grants when attending Aurora biannual meetings, ASC in-person meetings or student conferences.	Yes. The travel grant is the standard travel grant all students participating in Aurora exchange courses receive. The grant covers travel, accommodation and food.	No.	All student representatives at CBS are unpaid positions.	No.
UIBK	Two ASC members come from the Austrian National Union of Students (ÖH), both of whom are part of the chair team. These students are elected/contracted through the ÖH. Serving on the ASC is an additional responsibility as part of their ÖH duty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of Aurora-related activities through the ÖH newsletter Participation in Aurora Annual Events and the Aurora Student Conference Monthly meetings with the Aurora Office team General support: Aurora Office and Aurora Student Ambassadors 	N/A	2-3 hours	The position is voluntary	Travel & accommodation costs are fully covered	No.	There is no barrier, a paid position could be realised if needed. However, through the legal set-up of the student representational body ÖH there is already a system of student representatives in place that can be leveraged for the ASC.	See above, it is not needed for legal reasons.	
UNINA	Selection by (local) Aurora Board	It's expected that they participate in WPs and TTs according to local needs of resources.	Yes, our institution pays students for part-time work in libraries or tutoring activities for students of the first year. To receive this scholarship you've to participate in a call and be selected through some criteria. Another paid position are the ones of members in the academic senate or institutional student council, that receive a small fee for their presence in the meetings.	2-3 hours	The position is purely voluntary and there are no specific benefits. You can receive a badge for "Aurora Student Advocate" that certifies that you have certain skills and it's recognized by the university.	Yes, it's covered with a refund of real costs	Before Aurora 2030 they were elected from the Institutional Student Council and now they are selected directly by the (local) Aurora Board.	Critical issues highlighted by our Aurora Board: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the Italian situation, remuneration is not justified for participation in activities proper to their training process, but as a professional or semi-professional activity and, therefore, as 'subordinate' employment. A way to pay students for university-related work in Italy is to create a call for applications and then assign them a scholarship. The criticality of this system is that the winners of the call for applications cannot be decided by the Aurora Board but are usually based on specific criteria (such as grade average) and it would therefore not be possible to decide in advance who should receive the 	Yes, maybe we can look for other ways to pay them.	
URV	Open call to the URV student community via MS Forms + selection committee + interview (link available in individual report)	The ASC supports the management team of the project and provides them with its perspective in order to achieve the objectives of the network. The members of the Council will be required to attend regular meetings (both virtual and in-person), coordinate with the URV Aurora Ambassadors and the URV Aurora Office, and also support activities aimed at students that are organized at the URV. Finally, they will need to submit a report at the end of the academic year.	The URV Internship Program is open to students enrolled at URV, offering extracurricular internships of up to 10 months (10/15h per week) within the university's structures, centers, and departments. Eligible students must be pursuing studies relevant to the internship's profile and training project. Selections will be based on academic performance and CV suitability.	We have made an annual estimation of 70 hours (2h approx. per week).	We are working on offering them 1 ECTS recognition for their participation.	Yes, real costs - they travel with the same conditions as any other member of the URV Aurora Task Force.	No.	National law and institutional regulations.	No.	

Table presenting the results of Institutional report 1
Zoom to see results

Table 1: institutions with student remuneration
Table 2: institutions without student remuneration

Annex 2

Institution	Have student positions at your institution changed in the past year/since the Milestone report? If yes, in what way?	What does Institutional support to ASC members look like at your institution?	How frequently do ASC members meet with supporting university staff?	When in the academic year are ASC members appointed?	Do you have any rules regarding ASC appointment?	What does institutional support to Aurora Ambassadors look like at your institution?	How many meetings with Ambassadors were conducted in the academic year 2024/2025?	What was the role of ASC members in meetings with Ambassadors?	What tasks have ASC members been entrusted with to provide peer-to-peer support to Ambassadors?	What barriers are you facing when it comes to student participation?	Any additional comments?
CBS	No, it has not.	The ASC members have access to all of the Aurora core team members. There is one dedicated contact person, usually a member of the 7.1 IT, who is appointed with contacting ASC members, onboarding them to the Aurora CBS procedures and keeping in regular contact with them.	The ASC members meet with the university support staff based on their needs. The ASC members are also invited to the weekly team meetings of the Aurora core team, that is if they have anything to contribute to the meeting.	August	One of the members must be a member of the CBS Student Council, therefore democratically elected.	MS Teams and email are used as means of communication. We are in touch with the Ambassadors on a monthly basis. Mobility opportunities are advertised via monthly newsletter, which is distributed via email.	We don't have this data.	Explanation of all the possibilities and offers Aurora has for them. Support in case of any questions.	Assistance during opportunities abroad (ix Paris conference 2025) was provided by ASC members. Also, they were entrusted with keeping an overview over Ambassador numbers and keeping in contact with them on at least semi-regular basis.	Institutional barrier can be that the CBS Student Council is not technically obliged to be active in the ASC. We have been lucky so far, but there is no mechanism in place that would ensure that the CBS Student Council member will participate in Aurora activities. It is up to the council if they want to use the seat in the ASC offered to them.	
UDE	No, but we are considering changing it. In the past, the elected General Student's Committee representatives were automatically also fulfilling the role as elected ASC representatives. Recently, it wasn't working out very well.	As elected General Student's Committee representatives, they receive a remuneration. There are frequent meetings with e.g. our VRE/VRP, the senate, and other committees and bodies. At the International Office, we try to include the ASC members also in our activities	We (at IO) arrange meetings based on needs. We would like to have more frequent meetings with the ASC/OSC members, but it hasn't worked out due to low engagement and late responses.	In summer, last election was in July.	No. In the past the chair of UDE's General Student Committee was automatically appointed ASC member. Two years ago, the chair decided to give those responsibilities to the department of University policy.	We share mobility opportunities with the ambassadors via email. We invite them to all Aurora events and ask for their input.	4. We had 2 onboarding meetings and 2 meetings with all Aurora members (mostly staff).	We couldn't agree on a role.	N/A	N/A	We experienced during the last two years a lack of interest in Aurora by the department of University Policy. Communication with the elected members is not satisfactory. We already tried to improve anything we can and had meeting with the chair of the General Student Committee. We cannot force anybody to work.
UI	No.	We have a member of staff who specifically works on student matters and support. Our ASC members have open access to that individual via email and can drop by their office, if need be. They also have the contact information of our IC but are in more regular contact with our student support officer. Due to only one of our ASC representatives having a paid position, expectations of that representative are higher. That representative (The Student Council's International Officer) has a regular meeting booked with our student support officer every other week, where both parties bring an agenda of what they would like to use the time to discuss. The Student Council's Aurora officer is welcome to attend these meetings, but their presence is specifically requested when required. Both ASC members are invited to Aurora central team meetings held at least once a semester, where all active Aurora staff meets to discuss the status of their projects. Students are regularly asked to present during these meetings.	We have recently established a standing meeting with the Student Council's International Officer (ASC member) every other week. There, they meet with their main contact, but other staff members can be called to the meeting based on needs. Structure of meetings is informal but both parties bring points of interest for the meeting agenda. We discuss upcoming tasks for both the students and staff, support to Ambassadors, any upcoming events, division of responsibilities and any staff support that may be required. Additional meeting can be arranged if needed. If there is nothing specific that needs to be discussed from either side, we can decide to cancel the meeting (this is a joint decision). Additionally, the Aurora central team meetings, which are held at least once a semester.	Appointment of ASC members is overseen by the Student Council at the University of Iceland. Student Council elections occur in March of each year, and a new Student Council elects their new president and other elected positions in April and the formal handover is in May. This includes the Student Council's Aurora officer. The new office of the Student Council has fully taken over by the start of June, each year. By that time, all professionally hired positions should also start their term. This includes the International Officer of the Student Council. The Student Council's Aurora Officer therefore starts in May; the Student Council's International Officer should start in June.	One role is voted on by the local Student Council (SH) and must be an active Student Council member, the other role is professionally hired and works part-time at the Students' Rights Office (SHI office).	There is not a regular schedule for how frequently Ambassadors are contacted. As soon as we receive the list of newly selected ASAs for the upcoming academic year, initial contact is established, and a joint informal meeting is organized where all new ASAs and ASC members are invited. Further communication usually takes place via email, where opportunities such as collaborations, networking events, job positions, and similar activities are shared depending on the context. All relevant mobility opportunities are communicated to ASAs and actively promoted. After the Aurora Office Innsbruck selection procedure for mobility offers, travel and accommodation costs are usually fully covered.	One official introduction meeting, our ASC attempted to schedule a second meeting, but interest was limited. This may have been due to timing, as exams were approaching. We will learn from this and ensure that meetings are organised in a regular manner. Additionally, we met with the ASAs who were selected to attend the Student Conference and Annual Conference separately	ASC members were given the role of organising Ambassador meetings and setting up the programme, but it was made clear that a meeting could be arranged with staff members regarding the programme or any other matters that required support.	Interest and participation in local opportunities from Ambassadors has been limited. High numbers of students apply for the project but then show no activity. We have struggled with the fact that only one of our ASC members is paid for their work – this was a change introduced by the local Student Council but creates an imbalance between the ASC members and the amount of work we can expect from them.		
UIBK	Since the MS26 report, no notable changes in how ASC members are selected have occurred. They still get appointed by the Student Representative Body (SRB) of the university and how they get appointed is regulated by national law. Once appointed, we receive the members' names and contact details for communication. ASC members serve on a voluntary basis and do not receive any remuneration.	The Aurora Office Innsbruck maintains regular contact with ASC members, including monthly meetings, to facilitate the exchange of information on Aurora activities and opportunities. Depending on the type of event or conference, ASC members are consistently invited to represent the student voice in various settings.	The meetings usually begin at the start of each new semester and are held on a monthly basis. Katerina Hochstaffl-Nazarova, Dejan Lukovic, and Thomas Baumgartner participate in these meetings. The main discussion points focus on current activities and opportunities within Aurora and joint activities with current ASAs. The agenda is set jointly by the staff and the ASC, but topics often emerge organically and are discussed flexibly during the meeting.	The academic year runs from early October to late June, and ASC members are usually appointed within this period.	The ASC members get appointed by the Student Representative Body (SRB) of the university and how they get appointed is regulated by national law.	As soon as we receive the list of newly selected ASAs for the upcoming academic year, initial contact is established, and a joint informal meeting is organized where all new ASAs and ASC members are invited. Further communication usually takes place via email, where opportunities such as collaborations, networking events, job positions, and similar activities are shared depending on the context. All relevant mobility opportunities are communicated to ASAs and actively promoted. After the Aurora Office Innsbruck selection procedure for mobility offers, travel and accommodation costs are usually fully covered.	An informal online get-together meeting was held, with representation from the ASC. ASAs were also engaged in organizational duties for the Aurora International Peace Conference, for which they received remuneration. Opportunities for active participation/exchange/cooperation were additionally offered during the TIC workshop and Aurora Open 2025.	The ASC represented the OH body structure and provided support to ASAs on Aurora-related student matters arising in connection with the Student Council and/or the Ambassador program. The main aspects included exchanging experiences to improve university student representation, participating in external events on behalf of Aurora, and collaborating on student initiatives.	During the Annual Conference and internal activities, communication among ASC and ASAs was established independently and maintained without direct involvement from the Aurora Office Innsbruck. This approach has been positive, allowing for more informal and open exchanges in a "relaxed student-oriented manner".	The main barriers to student participation as ASC members and Ambassadors are practical rather than legal. Appointments often occur in the academic year (October-June), which shortens the period of active engagement. In addition, students' availability is limited by academic workload and exam schedules. While no significant legal restrictions exist, administrative procedures can delay onboarding and reduce continuity.	
UNINA	No, the selection has the same nature as the milestone, meaning: the student voluntarily applies for this role, and the ICs, after assessing the student's skills and inclinations through an interview, selects the student.	The student has financial support: they are often reimbursed similarly to a university mission. There is the support of Aurora Unina Office always available to lay down the necessary procedures to provide a safe experience to the student and to be reimbursed successfully.	Usually, Monthly. The meeting happens in presence in the Aurora Unina Office. The staff meeting the student is Aurora Unina Office and usually also some members of task teams and the IC present. Occasionally the meeting is hosted on Microsoft Teams.	Every June. The academic year starts in June and ends in May, August a month of vacation in UNINA except for Aurora Unina Office that has three weeks off.	They're selected by the Institutional Coordinator through an assessment to ensure the skills required to assist meetings with the ASC.	Ambassador are contacted through emails and a WhatsApp group, Microsoft teams and there are presental meetings at least once per semester. Mobility opportunities are advertised through the WhatsApp group, and the organization is hosted at Aurora Unina Office.	There was a welcoming meeting in November 2024 and an update meeting in March 2025. Occasional meetings are held, with a proposed monthly cadence when needed. In addition, there is an in-person meeting with the Aurora UNINA office	They were the organisers of the meetings with the Ambassador and had the role to explain everything about Aurora activities that might be interesting for students.	They are always in touch with the ambassadors via the whatsapp group and support them in the organisation of their mobilities and university missions.	Sometimes students sign up for the ambassador program but they're not showing up to meetings or being very active. We'll plan more activities to try to get them more involved during this year.	

Table presenting the results of Institutional report 2
Zoom to see results

The table is split onto two pages

Annex 2

Institution	Have student positions at your institution changed in the past year/since the Milestone report? If yes, in what way?	What does institutional support to ASC members look like at your institution?	How frequently do ASC members meet with supporting university staff?	When in the academic year are ASC members appointed?	Do you have any rules regarding ASC appointment?	What does institutional support to Aurora Ambassadors look like at your institution?	How many meetings with Ambassadors were conducted in the academic year 2024/2025?	What was the role of ASC members in meetings with Ambassadors?	What tasks have ASC members been entrusted with to provide peer-to-peer support to Ambassadors?	What barriers are you facing when it comes to student participation?	Any additional comments?
UPEC	There have been no structural changes. Our student vice-president is elected for a two-year mandate. She/he nominates the assessor for Aurora students for a two-year mandate as well. Both of them are the representatives of ASC for UPEC.	Student vice-president and assessor for Aurora students are both members of the ASC. They have a paid position at UPEC. We engage them actively in overall project coordination at UPEC: student vice president takes part in Aurora steering committee meetings. Both of them also attend the operational committee meetings. ASC members have a direct access to Aurora office at UPEC in case they need any ad-hoc meetings/discussions.	Aurora student vice-president is a member of Aurora steering committee meetings at UPEC. Those meetings include the president of UPEC, several vice-presidents, as well as the heads of involved administrative departments. They are organised 2-3 times per academic year. ASC members also attend operational committee meetings. These meetings regroup people who are actively engaged in Aurora (academics, staff) and take place every 5-6 weeks. The agenda for these meetings is defined by Aurora IC and the head of Aurora office in prior consultation with the committee members. The students also contribute to the agenda and discuss their relevant topic during the meeting.	By the beginning of the academic year (September-October)	We appoint the elected students for ASC student vice-president and assessor for Aurora students.	Once the ambassadors are selected, we organise a kick-off meeting where we present the ambassador programme and the opportunities. The ambassadors are supervised by the ASC UPEC members.	A kick-off meeting was organised in November 2024. At the meeting the head of Aurora office presented Aurora, its structure and mobility opportunities. ASC UPEC members presented the ambassador programme in detail and various types of engagement. There were other meetings between ASC UPEC members and the ambassadors during the academic year.	ASC members are charged to ensure that there is the presence of Aurora ambassadors at UPEC internal events and activities: presence at the UPEC welcome days at the beginning of the academic year; student job during Aurora annual conference at UPEC.	ASC members are charged in coordinating and supervising the ambassadors. They also proceed with the selection the ambassadors for the participation in different Aurora student conferences and events.	Last year Aurora UPEC office had a lack of visibility of the involvement of ambassadors into different activities/events/TT. We are going to solve this problem this year by: -Defining the clear role of ASC members in supporting the ambassadors -Making regular follow up -More support/guidance to ambassadors for their engagement	
UP	No structural changes at UP since the milestone report.	At UP, the Aurora Engagement & Impact leader is tasked with providing support to the ASC members. This entails meetings, sharing project-updates and supporting student initiatives. ASC members are remunerated in the following way: -1.1 FTE (4h/week) ASC Member -1.2 FTE (8h/week) for students selected to be ASC Vice-president, Secretary or Communications Officer. -Students Elected in the role of ASC President are offered a 0.3 FTE (12h/week)	During the Semester, bi-weekly meetings are organized at set times between the ASC members and the Aurora Engagement & Impact Leader. The agenda for these meetings is set by the staff and students, with topics ranging from project and ASC updates to student engagement and upcoming events. Additional meetings are planned according to needs. In addition, the ASC members are invited to UP Aurora Central Team meetings when relevant.	ASC-member engagement spans from September to June. ASC members are normally selected ahead of the academic year, ideally in May.	At UP, ASC members are currently appointed through an application process, based on a motivation letter and CV. There are currently no formal limits to the number of terms, although a limit of three terms is currently being discussed.	UP aims to foreground informal, low-threshold communication and community building when it comes to an ambassador engagement. Students were put in touch with the UP ASC members, and the Aurora Engagement & Impact Leader as their first points of contact. Students were regularly (approx. once per month/6 weeks) updated on interesting opportunities in Olomouc and abroad.	A total of five dedicated meetings with ambassadors were conducted in 2024/2025: -Ambassadors Introduction Meeting -Aurora Student Conference -Olomouc -Majales -Ambassadors Informal Meet Up I -Ambassadors Informal Meet Up II In addition, student ambassadors	ASC members played an important role in the planning of all student related meetings, where they were contributed to both the organization and programme-setting of these events.	For Student Ambassadors, the ASC members serve as the first contact point for all Aurora related matters. Their role is to answer questions and support the ambassadors navigating Aurora opportunities, including their role in local events, as well a procedural	No, we can currently provide the envisioned student support without any significant barriers.	
URV	No, there have been no structural changes in student positions since the MS26 report.	ASC members are in direct contact with the URV Aurora Office, which provides comprehensive support including logistics, meeting and activity coordination, travel arrangements, and connections with vice-rectors and other staff members. While the role of URV representative at the Aurora Student Council is not remunerated financially, ASC members may request the recognition of 1 credit for their contribution.	The URV Aurora Office holds at least four meetings per academic year with ASC members and Ambassadors, usually scheduled through Doodle polls to accommodate availability. In addition, ASC members are regularly invited to the quarterly URV Aurora Task Force meetings, which gather all URV representatives involved in Aurora task teams, including vice-rectors and occasionally the Rector. During these meetings, students are invited to present their updates and actively contribute to the discussions and agenda.	By the end of October, we launch the call at URV before the Summer break (beginning of July) and close it at the end of September so students have enough time to fill in the form. We send out an email to all the student community (BAM/PHD) and also target specific groups like our Ambassadors, student delegates and other engaged students.	They can hold their position as student representatives at the ASC for two years maximum. Obviously, they must be enrolled and active student of our university. They are elected by a commission, but we do wish to make this process more democratic and open in the future.	Communication with Ambassadors is maintained through regular meetings, email, video calls, MS Teams, and WhatsApp. In 2024-25, ASC members created a dedicated WhatsApp group to facilitate more direct communication among URV Aurora students. Additionally, by the end of the academic year, a Telegram dissemination channel was established to share mobility opportunities and other relevant information.	At least four meetings were held during the academic year 2024-25: -welcome meeting at the beginning of the year (in person), -Several follow-up meetings throughout the year, -closing meeting (in person), which included a dynamic evaluation activity where Ambassadors provided feedback and worked collaboratively on proposals to improve the programme.	ASC members played a leading role in meetings with Ambassadors. They were responsible for guiding discussions, ensuring that Ambassadors were actively heard, and working collaboratively to shape activities, decisions, and approaches agreed upon during the sessions.	ASC members created a dedicated WhatsApp group to maintain direct communication with Ambassadors. They also received key mobility opportunities from the URV Aurora Office and shared them with Ambassadors through this channel. Furthermore, ASC members coordinated peer support for joint initiatives, such as organizing the Aurora booth during the annual URV Festival, where they collaborated on outreach and dissemination activities.	We believe that our ASC members should also form part of the URV Student Council, as is the case in other member universities. This would strengthen transparency and democracy in the selection process while fostering closer cooperation between the ASC and our internal student representation body. The main challenge lies in timing. URV student representatives are not appointed until mid-October or November, which is relatively late in the first semester. This misalignment creates difficulties in synchronizing our election calendar with the ASC's internal appointments. As a result, there is a risk of nominating someone before they have been officially elected—or re-elected—at our university. Better coordination between these calendars would help overcome this barrier and ensure smoother integration of	We would appreciate receiving a brief summary of the ASC members' main achievements, as well as the challenges they have encountered and any suggestions they may have for improvement. This feedback would help us better understand their contribution, identify areas for support, and enhance the overall impact of their role. It would be also an interesting idea to present this summary during the Aurora Annual Conference and in a downloadable (and sharable) format.
VU	No	Aurora Student Council members at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam are selected from within the University Student Council (USR), which is elected annually. Both students receive a stipend through their USR positions and get all their Aurora travel expenses paid for. Aurora-related responsibilities are integrated into their Communications portfolio and considered part of their formal role. In addition to ASC members, there is a paid Student Assistant working directly with the Aurora Institutional Coordinator. This assistant manages day-to-day communication, coordination with Ambassadors, and event and mobility support.	Meetings are arranged as needed, usually every 4-6 weeks, and often coordinated by the Student Assistant. ASC members communicate primarily with the Institutional Coordinator and Student Assistant, but also join meetings with Ambassadors, staff, and occasionally Aurora Work Package leads. Agendas are developed collaboratively, based on upcoming Aurora activities (e.g. student conferences, mobilities, alliance-level meetings), and ASC members are encouraged to bring their own topics or updates.	The new University Student Council is elected and announced in June, but the decision on which members will take on the ASC roles is usually finalised in mid-September, after the internal division of portfolios.	The University Student Council is elected annually by the student body. Within the council, the Communications Coordinator automatically becomes one of the Aurora Student Council (ASC) members. The second ASC member is appointed	Aurora Ambassadors at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam receive consistent support and regular updates about available opportunities. They are contacted via email and WhatsApp, with most communication coordinated by the Aurora Student Assistant, who serves as their main point of contact. Opportunities, such as short-term courses, student conferences, or ambassador calls, are shared through email and WhatsApp by either the student assistant or TLC. Ambassadors are guided by the mobility officer regarding funding rules, application steps, and practical	We held one formal workshop for our ambassadors. In addition, Ambassadors took part in introduction market stands, informal check-ins, and meetings during Aurora events such as the Aurora Annual Conference and Aurora Student Conference.	ASC members joined several of these meetings. They shared their experiences and helped introduce the Aurora Student Council structure to Ambassadors. In some cases, they also co-presented at visibility events or supported students attending their first Aurora international meetings.	The main challenges are the financial constraints and the academic year planning of universities. Aurora mobility funding will only cover part of the travel costs, rather than offering a full scholarship, which can discourage participation. In addition, students are often limited by their faculty schedules, making it difficult to participate. Another ongoing challenge is the administrative workload and limited capacity to consistently track and follow up with students post-mobility.		
UPJS	In May 2025, Simona Gibalová, a student from the Faculty of Medicine was appointed the President of Student Council. Michaela Lukáčová graduated in August 2025, the vacated position of ASC member will be filled on 25 September 2025 by a nominee Katarína Duřičianski from the Faculty of Arts.	The university provides access to meeting spaces, logistical assistance (such as help with event planning, communication, and budgeting), and staff who offer guidance on administrative procedures. In 2025, a dedicated e-mail address and Instagram profile were created at institutional level to communicate and promote the activities of ASC members and Aurora Ambassadors. The institutional support lies in administering the address and profile, promoting activities of ASC members on the university website, translating the articles, publishing posts and disseminating the information in general.	At our university, meetings between ASC members and supporting university staff are arranged on an as-needed basis rather than according to a fixed schedule. Both on-site and online meetings are possible, depending on preferences of meeting participants. When ASC members are preparing an event, or need any assistance, they reach out directly to the relevant staff from the International Relations and Internationalisation Office. The agenda of meetings is prepared mutually by ASC members and IRO staff.	ASC members at our institution are not appointed on a fixed schedule during the academic year. Instead, they are nominated based on references and once nominated, they remain in their ASC role until their graduation.	The appointment of ASC members is subject to formal approval by the University Senate.	At our university, the International Relations and Internationalisation Office staff communicate with Aurora Ambassadors, primarily by email, and provide administrative and logistical support, e.g. assistance with travel documentation, providing leaflets or promotional materials.	In the academic year 2024/2025, there was only one official joint meeting of all Ambassadors (20 June 2025). The reason is that they were nominated in late May.	Since our student (Simona Gibalova) was elected the President of Aurora Student Council in May 2025, the coordination and agenda of activities and meetings with ASC members and Aurora Ambassadors is in her hands right now. ASC members communicate perspectives and initiatives of Aurora Alliance.	The main barriers we face regarding student participation in the ASC and the Aurora Ambassador programme are financial. While the university is supportive of student involvement, there are limited funds available to cover costs such as travel, accommodation, and participation fees for external or international events. This can discourage some students from applying or fully engaging, especially those from less advantaged backgrounds.		

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