Privileged partnership between the University of Padua and the University of Lausanne

2023 Call for Proposals

for joint projects to support graduate students, researchers and joint teaching activities

1. Context

The University of Padua (UNIPD) and the University of Lausanne (UNIL) have progressively built a fruitful collaboration, spanning from student exchange programmes to strong collaborations in the field of research. The two universities share some similar features, such as being located in middle-sized European cities, participating in the VIU – Venice International University, and being ranked in similar positions in main international rankings.

Following several preparatory meetings and events, in 2021 UNIPD and UNIL have officially entered a strategic partnership to further support joint teaching and research collaboration, as well as other activities to foster internationalisation at both institutions.

As a result, in November 2021 UNIPD and UNIL have launched a first joint call in order to respond to strategic internationalisation priorities of both institutions. A second call was launched in spring 2022. Through the first two calls, 23 projects were selected and funded and are currently being implemented by joint teams of the two universities. The present "Call for Projects" is therefore the third joint call launched in the framework of this strategic partnership, with the aim of strengthening further the collaboration between the two institutions, through the implementation of initiatives in the fields of teaching and research.

2. Objectives of the call

The International Relations Office of UNIL and the International Relations Division of UNIPD are launching a joint call to support projects fostering teaching and research collaboration between the two institutions, with special attention to support graduate students, PhD students and early-stage researchers.

3. Type of projects

UNIPD and UNIL have agreed upon specific types of initiatives for which applicants are welcome to present their proposals. In this respect, the partner universities provide a total funding of € 60,000.00 to support the following specific initiatives:

Eligible initiatives	Short description	Max budget per project
1. Graduate Summer/ Winter programs	Graduate programmes are short, high-quality intensive courses, that can be delivered in person or in a blended mode. Theoretical and technical lectures should be offered by involving both internal and external academics, including international experts in the field. The school should be open to last year Master's students, PhD students and post-docs. Minimum duration is four days. Charging fees for external participants is allowed.	€ 7,000.00
2. Joint seminars / conferences involving early-stage researchers	Multiple-day conference/seminars focusing on specific topics for the purpose of initiating / reinforcing research cooperation and preparing joint publications, applications for Joint Projects, etc. Seminars should also involve early-stage researchers and, possibly, be open to external stakeholders / participants.	€ 5,000.00
3. PhD Workshops	PhD Workshops are an opportunity for graduate students to present and discuss their research work in an encouraging international environment. The workshop should provide an informal forum that facilitates interactions among PhD students and stimulates feedback from more experienced researchers. Maximum duration is three days.	€ 5,000.00
4. Innovative teaching projects	Teaching projects with an innovative approach and with collaboration between students and academics, such as Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) projects, Virtual and collaborative programmes, blended intensive programmes or Challenge-based programmes. This type of projects can be either embedded in the existing academic offer or designed as a new standalone activities, targeted at undergraduate and master's students.	€ 5,000.00

4. Eligibility requirements

To be eligible, a project must be carried out by at least two applicants, one from each partner Institution, who are to work together to build a joint proposal.

At UNIL, the Principal Investigator must be Professor or Senior Lecturer (MER). At UNIPD, the Principal Investigator must be a member of the academic staff.

All academic fields covered jointly by UNIPD and UNIL are allowed, including interdisciplinary projects which involve different disciplines and academic areas. Proposed projects must be entirely new and not a continuation, or further edition, of existing initiatives. Recipients of funds under the 2021 and 2022 Calls for Proposal are eligible to apply.

Each application, in order to evaluated, shall contain:
- project title and layperson abstract of the proposed project;
and detailed description of the following:
- aim of the project;
- how the project will be implemented (foreseen activities, outputs);

- time frame for the implementation of the project;
- funding request, indicating the specific amounts for every cost item and the budget distribution between UNIPD and UNIL;
- potential for follow-up activities;
- how the activities and, where applicable, results will be published/ disseminated.

5. Financial resources and funding arrangements

Selected projects will receive a maximum amount of funding according to table on art.2.

The funded activities may be carried out from 1 August 2023 to 31 December 2024.

The funding can be used to cover for the following:
- organisational costs linked to the implementation of the program;
- fees for the service of external academics or professionals, in case of projects envisaging the participation of external bodies;
- travel expenses, accommodation and meals when travel is part of the project (in line with the principles of the European Union regarding sustainable travel, it is recommended to travel by train rather than by airplane);
- publication and dissemination of activities and/or results.

Non-allowable expenses include:
- salaries or salary supplementation for academics at UNIPD and UNIL;
- infrastructure and equipment purchases, such as computers, including laptops and basic computing facilities such as printers, word processing and other standard software;
- conference registrations related to external events, unless related to the dissemination of results
- costs already incurred prior to submission of the proposal.

Funding will be provided in one instalment. Co-funding of projects through the University Department or Centre, external bodies funds, etc. is welcomed.

Funding will be transferred to UNIPD and UNIL applicants based on the budget distribution included in the proposal, as follows:
- for applicants with UNIPD as their home university: the funding will be made available in full to the relevant School/Department before the beginning of the projects. The relevant School/Department will be responsible for the administrative and accounting management of it.
- for applicants with UNIL as their home university: the funding will be made available in full to the relevant administrative unit (Faculty/Institute/Department) before the beginning of the projects. The relevant unit will be responsible for the administrative and accounting management of it.

6. Submission of proposals

Applicants are allowed to submit only one application for each eligible initiative.

All applications can be submitted, by any of the two Principal Investigators indifferently, [through the dedicated online platform](#), by **28th April 2023**, at **1:00 PM**.

7. Evaluation criteria

The projects proposals will be evaluated by a joint Selection Committee, consisting of members for UNIPD and for UNIL, according to the following criteria:
- project consistency with the internationalisation goals of UNIPD and UNIL;
- Pedagogical aspects of the project;
- scientific relevance of the chosen theme;
- Feasibility of the project
- sustainability of the project;
- short term and long term perspectives of follow-up activities;
- impact.

Co-funding, if any, by the Department, Center or by external bodies shall be considered as an added value to the project, representing a sign of commitment of the parties involved and of the feasibility and practical nature of the project.
The joint Committee reserves the right to allocate less funding compared to the amount applied for. Selection shall comply with a criterion of diversification of projects subject-area and type, to encourage the widest possible range of activities.

8. Deadline

The present call for proposals will remain open for applications until **28th April 2023** at **1:00 PM**.

9. Application results

All participants will receive a notification of the result of the call via email by mid-June 2023. The selected projects will also be announced on the dedicated platform/on UNIPD and UNIL websites.

10. Final reporting

Successful candidates will be requested to prepare a final report within 30 days after the project is concluded.
The report shall focus on the outcomes of the project, in terms of:
- added value;
- evaluation of the impact of the activities;
- dissemination (if applicable);
- further development in the short and long perspective.
- short description of project results / highlights - this will be used for dissemination/communication purposes at UNIL and UNIPD (website, social media, etc)

11. Contacts

The appointed representatives in charge of overseeing the administrative procedure are:
- for University of Padua, Dr Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni, Head of International Relations Division;
- for University of Lausanne, Dr Denis Dafflon, Director of the International Relations Office.

This call for proposals, and selection results included, will be available on the UNIPD website and on the UNIL website. For further information, please contact:
- for University of Padua, Ms Elisa Cipelli, International Relations Division, Projects & Partnerships Unit (international.partnerships@unipd.it, tel.: +39 049 827 7470)
- for University of Lausanne, Mr Marc Pilloud, International Relations Office (marc.pilloud@unil.ch, tel.: +41 21 692 20 23)