



Unite! Seed Fund Initiative

Objectives of the Initiative

The Unite! Seed Fund is envisioned to provide financial support to innovative, co-creative and collaborative ideas across the [Unite! alliance](#). The seed fund intends to support the exploration and development of attractive and diverse activities and projects or to carry out cooperation on joint, ambitious, and innovative ideas within the alliance. **This call is envisioned for setting up joint/collaborative teaching formats in Unite! Focus Areas, particularly exchange modules for the Master level. Applications are expected to set forth a convincing path towards the creation of a Joint Programme after the completion of the Seed Fund project.**

Funding Line: “Unite! Seed Fund for Teaching and Learning in Unite! Focus Areas” (Spring 2025)

Funding initiative for promoting innovation and collaboration in Teaching and Learning in Unite! in the following focus areas:

- Artificial Intelligence
- Industry 4.0
- Energy
- Entrepreneurship
- Sustainable Cities and Water¹
- Engineering Biology²
- Space
- Cybersecurity

The objective of this call is to foster the **creation of exchange modules** within Unite!, i.e. academic programmes that allow students to study at another Unite! university – or at several other Unite! universities – for a certain period, thereby enhancing sustainable student mobility. In the long term, funded projects are expected to be scaled up into fully-fledged [Joint Programmes](#), i.e. programmes run by several universities that lead to a Master’s degree. **Please find details under “Objectives and Purpose” (page 2).*

Award Information and Timeline: Basic Data

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Seed Fund programme line:	Teaching & Learning in Unite! Focus Areas
Maximum budget for each proposal belonging to the programme option “Exploring”	Up to €10,000
Maximum budget for each proposal belonging to the programme option “Developing”: a) 3 participating universities b) 4 participating universities c) 5 participating universities d) 6 participating universities e) 7 participating universities f) 8 participating universities g) 9 participating universities	a) Up to €20,000 b) Up to €27,500 c) Up to €35,000 d) Up to €44,000 e) Up to €54,000 f) Up to €65,000 g) Up to €80,000
Deadline for proposals:	20 March 2025
Announcement of results:	Early June 2025
Funding period for this call:	October 2025 – December 2026

¹ incl. Resilient Cities and Climate Change.

² incl. Biotechnology.



The funding is open to subjects and topics related to the focus areas mentioned above and is aimed at **in-person, hybrid, and/or purely digital formats**. The Unite! university alliance invites **teaching staff as well as teaching and learning units** to send proposals of collaborative projects.

Objectives and Purpose

This call of the Seed Fund intends to support the **creation of exchange modules** – be they entirely new or based on preexisting courses – amongst Unite! members, limited to the Unite! focus areas only. These can address, e.g., innovative **teaching and learning formats** (e.g. **COIL, VECP**, etc.) intercultural or international **learning environments** or **co-creation** of course modules through teaching collaboration, etc.

The exchange modules are expected to:

- target the **Master level**
- bear **ECTS credits** (minimum: 10 ECTS)
- be **recognised by the departments/faculties of the universities involved** (relevant letters of support are mandatory)
- be devised as **long-term offers, with a great potential for being scaled up into Joint Programmes** (typically bearing 120 ECTS)

Potential Outputs

Programme Option “Exploring”:

- Contacts for teaching & learning collaboration/consortia established and explored.
- Well-defined collaboration ideas for the next steps towards the creation of exchange modules.

Programme Option “Developing”:

- Exchange modules developed.
- Blended/joint/collaborative courses developed.
- New formats of collaborative teaching developed.
- Path towards Joint Programme clearly defined.

Budgetary Guidance

Eligible costs that can be funded:

- Personnel costs* should be included with clear justification (e.g. conceptualising, preparatory work, accrediting, setting up conditions).
 - For regulatory reasons, the Seed Fund cannot be used to cover the costs of grant writing activities (for ERASMUS+ or any other EU funding). Unite! encourages you to write follow-up applications, but these must be covered by your institutional budget.
- Travel expenses (sustainable modes of travel preferred, Erasmus+ mobility schemes should be used wherever possible)
 - Travel costs must be covered (and applied for) by the universities sending students/staff to another university. The host university cannot pay travel costs of visiting students and staff.
- Other costs that can be funded include material resources, consumables, on-site/blended workshops, external service providers (e.g., moderators, language services).
 - The purchase of equipment cannot be funded.



- The Seed Fund can cover the costs for transferring course materials to the Metacampus (see below and contact metacampus@unite-university.eu for any questions)
- In general, overhead costs cannot be included in the budget plan. In case this poses problems as to the internal regulations of your institution, please contact your Unite! Key Laison Officer ([KLO](#)) as well as the Unite! Seed Fund management at seedfund@unite-university.eu.
- The proposal must clearly state in what way the funded activities are additional to ongoing activities. The Seed Fund cannot be used to fund ongoing activities.

***The seed fund does not cover staff cost for teaching or grants/stipends for students**

Requirements and Deliverables

- Applications must include academic staff or teachers or teaching units from **at least three Unite! member universities**. Partners beyond Unite! can be included, but not as beneficiaries.
- Funds are expected to be managed through local coordinators within the project.
- When planning a joint teaching offer, **please consult the [Online Toolkit](#) provided by Unite!**. For further questions, please contact melina.nummi@aalto.fi (for collaborative courses) and eija.kujanpaa@aalto.fi as well as kntssn@kth.se (for Joint Programmes).
- **If the usage of a learning management system is planned in the project, we expect [Metacampus](#) to be used** and its intended use to be specified in the proposal. Metacampus (as part of the Unite! digital campus) is the central [learning management platform](#) for all Unite! members and can be used e.g. for trainings, workshops, teaching, and lectures. For any questions, please contact the Metacampus support team (metacampus@unite-university.eu).
- A written report to the Unite! Secretariat on the progress and results of the project must be submitted two months after the project ends (28 February 2027 at the latest).
- **Only a max. of 50% of the funding can be allocated to one partner in the project.**

Finding International Partners for Seed Fund Proposals

- A **virtual matchmaking event** will be organised with the aim of bringing into contact potential collaboration partners from the Unite! universities. Participation is recommended but not mandatory.

Date and time:	Wednesday, 12 February 2025, 14:00 – 16:00 CET
Registration:	https://eveeno.com/uniteseedfundmatchmakingteaching2025
Deadline for registration:	Sunday, 9 February 2025
Explication	It is possible to register either as a 'coordinator' (with a project idea) or as a 'partner' (who is looking for a coordinator). During the virtual meeting, there will be one breakout room per project idea, with the coordinator leading/moderating the discussion. The full list of project ideas will be shared with all registered participants after 9 February 2025.



Evaluation Criteria

- 1) The **overall quality** of the application, including:
 - Adequate inclusion of relevant academic expertise of the Unite! alliance
 - Realistic work plan and clear deliverables
 - Adequacy of the funding requested
- 2) The **sustainability and long-term perspective** of the proposal, including:
 - Likelihood of the exchange module to exist as a long-term offer
 - Likelihood that the Seed Fund project can and will be scaled up into a Joint Programme
- 3) The potential **impact** of the proposal, including:
 - The expected added value for teaching and learning in Unite!
 - Clear benefits for a significant number of students

Application Procedure

- Applications can be submitted **until 20 March 2025** via email to seedfund@unite-university.eu
- It is strongly recommended to contact your university's [Key Liaison Officer](#) for application guidance.
 - In case you are affiliated with [ULisboa](#), contacting your Key Liaison Officer is mandatory.
 - Inquiries regarding PoliTO should be addressed to unite.pm@polito.it
 - If you are affiliated with Wroclaw Tech, you must follow its internal rules on the preparation and implementation of projects ([Link](#)).
 - General inquiries can also be emailed to: seedfund@unite-university.eu
- **Teachers (Professors, academic staff) and teaching and learning units** are eligible to apply.
- The evaluation of applications will be made by the Unite! Academic Forum (UAF), and selection decisions will be confirmed by the Unite! Steering Committee. Results are **expected by early June 2025**.
- **The complete application packet includes four documents:**
 - 1) **Project outline** (no more than 1000 words, signatures can be on additional sheet) to be submitted as PDF, which shows how the proposed objectives and funding criteria will be achieved.
 - 2) **Budget allocation sheet** (Excel sheet)
 - 3) **Eligibility checklist** (Excel sheet)
 - 4) **Letter of support** issued by the dean of studies and/or the chair of the participating departments of the universities. This letter must confirm that the universities involved will recognise the exchange module being offered to the students. If you are affiliated with [ULisboa](#), it is mandatory for you to contact your [Key Liaison Officer](#) for guidance as to the letter of support.