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UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 'Shaping a World-class University'

YEAR 2021 – Second edition

AIMS

In line with the Strategic Guidelines 2016-20, the University of Padua keeps encouraging and renewing an internationalisation strategy worldwide both to turn its degree programmes into open, innovative, and international learning environments and to boost its visibility, attractiveness and reputation for an increasingly better international ranking.

Given the uncertainty caused by the global pandemic, although the conditions are improving, the University aims to continue its internationalisation activities in this new framework, by supporting virtual and blended initiatives designed to innovate and digitalise curricular activities, promote the University itself and recruit international students. Moreover a limited number of in person activities within Summer & Winter Schools and/or other relevant activities will be funded. The mobility of professors and students involved in the proposed activities will be funded only towards and from EU partners and the other G7 countries[1].

TYPE OF PROJECTS AND FUNDING

For these action areas, the University provides total funding of **€200,000.00** to support the following specific initiatives:

	Project type / specific initiative	Budget/Project (max)	Total Budget (max)
1. INTERNAZIONALIZATION OF THE CURRICULUM	**1.1. Short-term visiting professors** (virtual activity) **1.2 Virtual & Collaborative programmes** (virtual teaching initiatives)	2.500,00 €	**200.000,00** €
	1.3. Virtual Summer & Winter Schools for students	5.000,00 €	
	1.4 Blended & Face-to-face Summer & Winter Schools for students	10.000,00 €	
2. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION	**2.1 Development Cooperation Activities** (virtual activities)	2.000,00 €	

The funded activities may be carried out from 1 November 2021 to 30 October 2022.

The funding provided by the International Relations Division 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. Co-funding of projects is allowed through either the University Department/ Centre or external bodies funds.

Within 30 days of the end of the activities and in any case not later than 30/11/2022, a final report will have to be submitted, which includes a description of the activities carried out and the results achieved, a plan for dissemination and exploitation of results, a longer-term outlook for the development of the activities.

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[1] Italy has signed agreements with other G7 counties to facilitate mobility on the basis of full vaccination.

Failing to submit the final report by 30/11/2022 will result in the repayment of the entire amount of the funding provided by the International Relations Division.

The aims, detailed information and specific requirements of each type of projects eligible for funding are outlined in the related factsheets of the macro-areas of actions, attached to this call for proposals (Anxs. 1-2-3-4).

SUBMISSION OF PROPOSALS

Applications must be submitted **by 1.00 pm on 21 September 2021**, exclusively through the online form available at https://www.unipd.it/shaping-world-class-university with the following documents to be attached in PDF format:

1. Project proposal
2. Estimated budget
3. Council resolution or Decree by the Head of the University Department/Centre approving the proposal and explicitly accepting the administrative and accounting management of the project; in case of more than one application, the priority must be indicated so to facilitate the selection by the dedicated Committee.
4. Any other document required for the relevant type of project, as laid down in the attached factsheets

In the event of co-funding, a letter of commitment, either by the Department/Centre of the proposing/relevant University (Council resolution or Decree by the Head of Department/Centre) or by the external funding institution (dated and signed letter of commitment), must be enclosed to the application.

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A Selection Committee appointed by the Rector will analyse the proposals and decide on funds allocation according to the following criteria:

- Relevance of the project to the internationalisation goals of the University and the Department/Centre
- Quality of the project proposal
- Quality of the partner(s) involved and international relevance of the proposal
- Impact and dissemination of results

Priority will be given to the projects submitted by professors who have not received funding under the first call of application. Specific requirements, where applicable, and priority criteria for selection are laid down in the factsheets attached to this call for proposals.

Co-funding, if any, by the proposing/relevant Department and/or by external bodies shall be considered added value to the project as a sign of commitment of the parties involved and of the feasibility and practical nature of the project.

The Committee reserves the right to allocate less funds than 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.

PERSON APPOINTED TO OVERSEE THE PROCEDURE AND INFORMATION

The person appointed to oversee the administrative procedure is Dr Dora Maria Cornelia Longoni, Head of International Relations Division.

This call for proposals, annexes and selection results included, will be available on the University's web page https://www.unipd.it/shaping-world-class-university.

For further information, please contact the Projects and Mobility Office

e-mail: international.projects@unipd.it   Tel. no.+39 049 827 1248

Padua,

The Rector
Prof. Rosario Rizzuto

ANNEX 1

Macro-area of action: 1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM
Type of project: 1.1 Short-term Visiting Professors

1. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

   Enriching and internationalising the University educational and training offer thanks to professors/experts from abroad with high scientific/professional qualifications for virtual, blended or face-to-face innovative seminars.

2. **PROJECT TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS**
   a. Contents: adding virtual/ dual mode (blended) or face-to-face seminars, concerning either innovative or cutting-edge topics, to the educational and training offer of Bachelor's, Master's and Single-cycle degree programmes or PhD programmes
   b. Duration of the activity: minimum 4 - maximum 8 hours
   c. Target participants: professors, researchers, or experts with proven scientific/professional qualifications, from a University, Institution, Body, or enterprise abroad, who, in the three years before the closing date of the call for proposals, have not resided or carried out their main activity in Italy for more than twelve months, even not consecutive
   d. The flat-rate funding is before tax, and social security taxes where applicable, set forth by the existing national regulation

3. **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**
   a. Proposing party: professor acting as contact person
   b. Application submission: only 1 application per proposing party, including the Council resolution or Decree by the Head of the hosting Department/Centre.

4. **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PRIORITY**
   a. Priority:
   - Professors/experts from partner institutions within networks/alliances highly relevant to the University: ARQUS, UNIMED, T.I.M.E., VIU, COIMBRA, etc.
   - Relevance of the seminars to the degree programme

5. **OTHER ANNEXES TO THE APPLICATION**
   a. Acceptance letter by the Visiting Professor;
   b. Curriculum Vitae of the Visiting Professor, bibliometric indicators included;
   c. Description of the seminars to carry out;

ANNEX 2

Macro-area of action: 1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM
Type of project: 1.2 Virtual & Collaborative programmes

1. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

   Enriching, internationalising and making the University's educational and training offer more accessible and inclusive through innovative activities, organised and delivered in virtual mode and in a synergistic and creative way, towards quality learning environments.

2. **PROJECT TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS**

   a. Contents: virtual initiatives, organised and offered as new separate activities/units to be added to existing teaching activities or aimed at enhancing quality of degree programmes (Bachelor's, Master's, Single-cycle degree programmes and PhD programmes). The activities proposed should be highly collaboration-centred and encourage active participation. The activities falling under the 'CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT' category described below must award at least 3 ECTS to participants.

   Such initiatives may be carried out during different stages of the study path and serve different purposes:
   - INDUCTION: (i) implementing introduction unit to the programmes or other ways of supporting students in adapting their educational background and the initial skills required to be successful in the degree programme; (ii) orientation initiatives, familiarisation with the learning environment, welcoming, intercultural, and networking activities aimed at the integration of students at the beginning of their study path;
   - CURRICULUM ENHANCEMENT (at least 3 ECTS): (i) Development of joint thematic units with international partners; (ii) initiatives to enhance students' soft skills (*project management, creativity, critical thinking, teamwork, leadership, entrepreneurship* and personal development, etc.); (iii) initiatives aimed at virtual laboratory activities;
   - NETWORKING & PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT: creating networking between the Alumni and the economic and social, and research fabric to support the degree programme in order to foster links with the labour market (practitioners/businesses/Alumni testimonials) and graduates' involvement and entry into the labour market.
   - QUALITY & MANAGEMENT: any other initiative aimed at improving the organisation, efficiency, and quality of the activities of the degree programmes, involving teaching and technical-administrative staff: exchange of good practices and implementation of joint activities within double/joint degree programmes also looking ahead to physical mobility activity (*Staff Exchange*).

   b. Duration of the project: minimum 5 days, on a continuous basis or spread throughout the academic year.
   c. Target participants: professors, students (Bachelor's, Master's, Single-cycle degree programmes, PhD programmes), teaching and technical-administrative staff
   d. Other specific requirements:

- Organisation of activities for groups of students of different nationalities, scientific and cultural backgrounds,
- involvement of at least one international partner in the project

3. APPLICATION SUBMISSION
   a. Proposing party: Professor acting as contact person, Programme Coordinator, or Representative of Double/Joint Degree Programme
   b. Application submission: only 1 application per proposing party, including the Council resolution or Decree by the Head of the Department/Centre

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PRIORITY
The following are added-value requirements to the project:
- Using the virtual exchange approach (https://www.unipd.it/erasmus-virtual-exchange)
- Using the 'Challenge Based learning' approach (https://www.challengebasedlearning.org/)
- Granting free access to the teaching units to the whole academic community

5. OTHER ANNEXES TO THE APPLICATION
Any other documents deemed useful to prove the quality of the project: letters of intent from partners, if any; CVs of the professors/practitioners involved in the project, etc.

ANNEX 3

Macro-area of action: 1. INTERNATIONALISATION OF THE CURRICULUM
Type of project: 1.3. Virtual Summer & Winter Schools
1.4. Blended & Face-to-face Summer & Winter Schools

1. **SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES**

   Supporting innovative short-term projects aimed at boosting training opportunities, in both research training and teaching, in virtual or blended mode or face-to-face in Padua or in the neighbouring regions. The project must be internationally relevant and is open to any geographical area.

2. **PROJECT TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS**
   a. Contents: short, high-quality intensive courses, organised and delivered in virtual or blended mode or face-to-face. Activities may cover specific subject areas or 'soft skills' (e.g. intercultural, interpersonal and cooperation skills, teamwork, *project management* and *creative thinking*, *problem-solving*, etc.). If addressed to first cycle degree students, the Summer & Winter School may be organized as a preparatory activity to an international second-cycle degree course or as an introduction to such a course (Summer Term). Educational credits (ECTS), defined by the relevant degree programmes of the University, may be awarded for it.
   b. Duration of the project: at least 1 week
   c. Target participants: students of the first, second, and third cycle, young researchers, practitioners, and civil servants or private employees, both Italian and international
   d. Teaching activities mode: (i) face-to-face, with case study analysis or group work, workshops, laboratories, seminars, and visits for a total of at least 6 hours of teaching activities per day; (ii) Blended – A mix of in presence and virtual training activities; (iii) Virtual – using digital and innovative technologies and methodologies.
   e. Only for Schools in presence: professors and students will have to reside in clearly identified facilities.

3. **APPLICATION SUBMISSION**
   a. Proposing party: professor acting as contact person
   b. Application submission: only 1 application per proposing party, including the Council resolution or Decree by the Head of the relevant Department/Centre

4. **SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PRIORITY**
   a. Specific requirements:
      - Presence of professors from institutions abroad
      - Minimum number of participants: 20
   b. Priority:
      - Initiatives compliant with the *virtual exchange* approach, which fosters constructive and structured interactions among individuals or groups, with the support of digital technology, are encouraged
      - Initiatives using the 'Challenge Based learning' approach (https://www.challengebasedlearning.org/)
      - Participation of international partners is added value
      - Participation of professional partners is added value to the project

5. OTHER ANNEXES TO THE APPLICATION

Any other documents deemed useful to prove the quality of the project: letter of endorsement from partner institution(s); invitation/acceptance letter from professors or professional partners from abroad, etc.

ANNEX 4

Macro-area of action: 2. DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION
Type of project: 2.1. Development Cooperation activities (virtual activities)

1.   SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

Facing the huge challenges set by the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the University of Padua is funding projects addressing sustainable development in the environmental, social and economic fields.

Actions:
Development cooperation activities and capacity building activities to be carried out in virtual mode within one of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (https://sdgs.un.org/goals):
Goal 1: no poverty
Goal 2: zero hunger
Goal 3: good health and well-being
Goal 4: quality education
Goal 5: gender equality
Goal 6: clean water and sanitation
Goal 7: affordable and clean energy
Goal 8: decent work and economic growth
Goal 9: industry, innovation and infrastructure
Goal 10: reduced inequalities
Goal 11: sustainable cities and communities
Goal 12: responsible consumption and production
Goal 13: climate action
Goal 14: life below water
Goal 15: life on land
Goal 16: peace, justice and strong institutions
Goal 17: partnership for the goals

2.   PROJECT TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS

Virtual cooperation projects with partner universities, research centres or public/private NGO headquartered in one of the eligible countries listed below.

Eligible activities:
a) (Online) Research activities and dissemination of results;
b) Teaching activities (online lectures and seminars);
c) Virtual laboratories.

3.   APPLICATION SUBMISSION
   a.   Proposing party: professor acting as contact person;
   b.   Application submission: only 1 application per proposing party, including the Council resolution or Decree by the Head of the relevant Department/Centre;

c. Letter of commitment by the foreign partner;
d. Any other documents deemed useful to attach.

4. SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION PRIORITY

- Impact of the project on the University internationalization process and relevance to the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Adequacy of the estimated budget with the activities of the proposed project.

5. OTHER ANNEXES TO THE APPLICATION

Any other documents deemed useful to prove the quality of the project: letters of intent from partners; invitation letter of the professors/professional partners, etc.

Eligible countries

Least Developed Countries	Low Income Countries which are not LDCs	Lower Middle Income Countries and Territories which are not LDCs	Upper Middle Income Countries and Territories which are not LDCs
Afghanistan	Democratic People's Republic of Korea	Angola	Albania
Bangladesh	Zimbabwe	Armenia	Algeria
Benin		Bolivia	Antigua and Barbuda
Bhutan		Cabo Verde	Argentina
Burkina Faso		Cameroon	Azerbaijan
Burundi		Congo	Belize
Cambodia		Côte d'Ivoire	Bosnia and Herzegovina
Central African Republic		El Salvador	Botswana
Chad		Eswatini	Brazil
Comoros		Georgia	Colombia
Democratic Republic of the Congo		Ghana	Costa Rica
Djibouti		Guatemala	Cuba
Eritrea		Honduras	Dominica
Ethiopia		India	Dominican Republic
Gambia		Indonesia	Ecuador
Guinea		Jordan	Fiji
Guinea-Bissau		Kosovo	Gabon
Kiribati		Kyrgyzstan	Grenada
Lao People's Democratic Republic		Micronesia	Guyana
Lesotho		Moldova	Iran
Liberia		Mongolia	Iraq
Madagascar		Morocco	Jamaica

Malawi		Nicaragua	Kazakhstan
Mali		Nigeria	Lebanon
Mauritania		Pakistan	Libya
Mozambique		Papua New Guinea	Malaysia
Myanmar		Philippines	Maldives
Nepal		Sri Lanka	Marshall islands
Niger		Syrian Arab Republic	Mauritius
Rwanda		Tajikistan	Mexico
Sao Tome and Principe		Tokelau	Montenegro
Senegal		Tunisia	Montserrat
Sierra Leone		Ukraine	Namibia
Solomon islands		Uzbekistan	Nauru
Somalia		Vanuatu	Niue
South Sudan		Viet Nam	North Macedonia
Sudan		West Bank and Gaza Strip	Palau
Tanzania			Panama
Timor-Leste			Paraguay
Togo			Peru
Tuvalu			Saint-Helena
Uganda			Saint Lucia
Yemen			Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
Zambia			Samoa
			Serbia
			South Africa
			Suriname
			Thailand
			Tonga
			Turkey
			Turkmenistan
			Venezuela
			Wallis and Futuna