

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

2025 Call for Proposals

Seed grants for joint research and Grants for joint teaching activities

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.

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 to respond to strategic internationalisation priorities of both institutions, followed by a second, third and fourth call in 2022, 2023 and 2024 respectively. Through these four calls, 41 projects were selected and funded, establishing a wide range of collaborations between the two institutions. The present Call for Projects represents the fifth joint call between UNIPD and UNIL.

1. General information and objectives of the call

The International Relations Office of UNIL and the International Relations Division of UNIPD are launching a joint call to further strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions, setting the groundwork for self-supporting, sustainable collaboration programmes. New collaborations and projects based on existing initiatives can be funded, but proposals must be different from projects funded in the framework of previous UNIL-UNIPD joint calls.

This call offers two types of grants:

- Seed grants for joint research
- Grants for joint teaching activities

Seed grants for joint research

UNIPD and UNIL are offering seed grants for joint research activities to give an impulse to collaborative projects submitted jointly by teams from both universities. Such activities may include: joint research training activities; conducting surveys, developing research materials ; working on joint publications; preparing for large-scale grant applications; etc. ¹

The call welcomes **one-year projects in all fields** covered by both universities. The maximum total funding, including budget from both UNIPD and UNIL, corresponds to 7.000 €.

¹ The list is not exhaustive and other types of initiatives can be proposed as long as they respond to the general objectives of the call.

Through this seed grants, UNIPD and UNIL aim to:

- encourage the emergence of joint research projects between the two universities;
- support innovative projects that offer medium-term prospects for the development of the privileged partnership;
- support initiatives that can lead to more substantial external funding at local, national, and/or international levels.

Projects must have a strong research component, and may consist for instance in preparing or conducting a research project, setting up a network of researchers, etc. A short sustainability plan, detailing prospects for collaboration after the end of the funding period, should be included in the proposal.

Eligible expenses:

- travel, accommodation and logistics costs in connection with a joint project;
- travel and accommodation expenses for work or research stays;
- costs related to scientific surveys;
- consumables needed for the implementation of the project, for an amount covering max. 15% of the total budget of the project;
- costs of joint publications.

Ineligible expenses:

- 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.

2. Grants for joint teaching activities

The grants for joint teaching activities aim to support projects targeting bachelor, master and/or PhD students. The maximum funding for each initiative is 7.000 €.

Eligible initiatives	Short description
1. Joint teaching modules and bloc courses	Credit-bearing joint teaching modules or bloc courses to be developed jointly by UNIL and UNIPD staff, targeting bachelor, master and/or PhD students from both institutions. The courses can be delivered in person, online or in blended mode.
2. Intensive short programme	Intensive short programmes, i.e. high-quality intensive courses, that can be delivered in person or in a blended mode, and take the form of Summer or Winter programmes or other types of intensive programmes. Theoretical and technical lectures can be offered by involving both internal and external academics, including international experts in the field and/or industry partners. The programme shall target bachelor, master and/or PhD students. The minimum duration is four days. Charging fees for external participants is allowed. The revenue of the fees can only be used to cover programme costs. The allocation of this revenue must be explicitly outlined in the budget.

3. Joint field trips	<p>Joint academic field trips developed jointly by UNIL and UNIPD staff, targeting bachelor, master and/or PhD students from both institutions. Field trips are course-related activities that serve educational purposes and occur at a location other than the classroom or campus. These trips function as a complement to classroom learning as they contextualize or enhance historical or scientific data, and offer opportunities to observe species, phenomena, and events that may function as explanation to course content and to a discipline's methodology.</p> <p>Joint field trips must have a minimum duration of three days.</p>
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Eligible expenses

- organisational costs linked to the implementation of the project;
- 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, e.g. for field trips (in line with each institution's travel regulations);
- publication and dissemination of activities and/or results.

Non-eligible expenses

- 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.

3. Funding administration

Funding will be made available to the applicants based on the budget proposal submitted with the project, as follows:

- for applicants with UNIPD as their home university, the funding will be made available in full to the relevant School/Department by December 2025. The relevant School/Department will be responsible for the administrative and accounting management of the received instalments.
- for applicants with UNIL as their home university, the expenses will be paid or reimbursed by the International Relations Office.

4. Timeline

- 5 September 2025: Application deadline
- By 31 October 2025: notification of the result of the call via email.
- 1 December 2025: Beginning of the activities
- 31 December 2026: End of the activities
- 31 January 2027: Submission of the final report.

5. 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). The end date of the project must not extend beyond the end of the applicant's contract, whether due to a fixed-term contract or retirement.
- At UNIPD, the Principal Investigator must be a member of the academic staff. In case of academic staff with fixed-term contract, the end date of said contract must not precede the end date of the project.

All academic fields covered jointly by UNIPD and UNIL are allowed, including interdisciplinary projects which involve different disciplines and academic areas.

Recipients of funds under the 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024 Calls for Proposal are eligible to apply. When projects are of comparable quality, preference will be given to applicants who have not received funding in previous calls.

6. Application

Applicants can apply for seed grants for joint research and/or grants for joint teaching activities with different proposals, but they can't apply with more than one proposal for each type of grant (i.e. an applicant can apply for a seed grant for joint research and a grant for teaching activities, but not for two seed grants). In any case, applicants can be awarded no more than one grant in total under this Call.

All applications shall be submitted, by any of the two Principal Investigators indifferently, by **September 5th 2025, at 1:00 PM**, through:

- [the online platform for Seed Grants for joint research](#)
- [the online platform for Grants for joint teaching activities](#).

Up to 8 projects in total are expected to be selected. All participants will receive a notification of the result of the call via email by the end of October 2025. The selected projects will also be announced on the UNIPD and UNIL websites.

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 criteria below.

Seed grants for joint research:

- Scientific relevance of the chosen theme;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Clear definition of the project plan, including the budget;
- Expected outcomes and impact;
- Clear perspectives to develop the project with larger funding upon completion;
- Possibility for the project to become a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration even after the funding support concludes.

Grants for joint teaching:

- Pedagogical aspects of the project;
- Scientific relevance of the chosen theme;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Clear definition of the target groups and project plan, including the budget;

- expected impact and outcomes for the target groups involved;
- Short term and long-term perspectives of follow-up activities;
- (*for joint field trips only*): a detailed safety and security risk analysis related to the destination country².

Co-funding, if any, by the Faculty, 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. When possible, 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 **September 5th 2025**, at **1:00 PM**.

9. Contacts

The appointed representatives in charge of overseeing the administrative procedure are:

- for University of Padua, Ms. Alessandra Gallerano, Head of the Projects and Mobility Office;
- 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)

² This analysis must identify relevant risks—political, social, environmental, health-related, or others—and outline suitable mitigation strategies to safeguard student participants. Regardless of the initial evaluation, this risk analysis must be reviewed and revalidated by the competent university offices prior to the start of the field trip, to confirm that the conditions for safe implementation are still met. Final authorization for in-person activities will be granted only if the safety conditions are deemed adequate at that time.