

# 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 in **Teaching and learning, Scientific research, and Student activities** across the Unite! alliance. The seed fund intends to support exploration and development of attractive and diverse activities and projects, to help secure either additional funds for a project or to carry out cooperation on joint, ambitious and innovative ideas within the alliance.

## Funding Line: “Unite! Seed fund for Teaching and Learning”

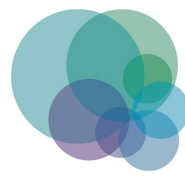
Funding initiative for promoting innovation and collaboration in Teaching and Learning within Unite alliance.

## Funding overview

The aim of [Unite!](#) is to be an innovative, collaborative, inclusive and sustainable alliance. Through its ambition to realise excellence in education, research, and innovation by creating new opportunities, [Unite! University alliance](#) invites Teaching staff, teaching, and learning units to send proposals of collaborative projects for its first round of Seed funding. The funding is open to all subjects and topics and is aimed at both in-person, hybrid, and purely digital formats.

## Award information and Timeline: Basic Data

Seed Fund Programme Line:	Teaching & Learning (See also calls for the Seed Fund Programme Lines “Research & PhD” and “Student Activity”)
Budget of each proposal in this call:	Programme Option <b>“Exploring”</b> : up to 10,000€ Programme Option <b>“Developing”</b> : up to 80,000€
Deadline for proposals:	<b>31 May 2023</b> Next call (for academic year 2024-25) is foreseen to be published early in 2024.
Decision will be taken:	<b>By 30 June 2023</b>
Funding period for this call:	<b>01 September 2023 to 31st December 2024</b>



## Objectives and Purpose

- Activate Unite! members to **jointly seize new opportunities** in teaching and learning. **Stimulate academic collaboration** bottom-up (open to all scientific fields).
- Support collaboration initiatives financially for a **limited period** (from the seed fund).
- Enabling them to develop **sustainable follow-up activities** (such as joint study offers/programmes) or to raise **additional funds** (such as Erasmus+ or other EU and national sources), thus leveraging the seed finances.
- Proposals can address, e.g., innovative teaching and learning formats, intercultural or international learning environments, teachers' professional development and training, or other subjects.

In essence, the seed fund intends to—support the formation of **new academic communities** and/or to further develop already active communities—across **Unite! Members**, including Unite! focus areas (Sustainable Energy, Artificial Intelligence, Industry 4.0, Entrepreneurship).

## Potential Outputs

### Programme Option “Exploring”:

- Contacts for teaching & learning collaboration established and explored.
- Well-defined collaboration ideas for the next steps (e.g., Erasmus+ actions, 2024 Teaching & Learning Call - Programme Option “Developing”), etc.

### Programme Option “Developing”:

- Blended/ joint/ shared courses developed.
- Work accomplished towards Joint Programmes.
- Joint Erasmus+ proposals developed, etc.

## Budgetary guidance

Eligible costs that can be funded:

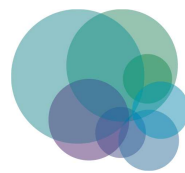
- Personnel costs should be included with clear justification (e.g., conceptualising, preparatory work, accrediting, applying, setting up conditions)
- Travel expenses (sustainable modes of travel preferred, Erasmus+ mobility schemes should be used wherever possible)
- Other costs that can be funded include material resources, research consumables, on-site/blended workshops, external service providers (e.g., moderators, language services).

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

The proposal must clearly state in what way the funded activities are additional to ongoing activities and support the Unite! objectives.

## Requirements and Deliverables

- Applications must comprise of academic staff or teachers or teaching units from **at least three full 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.
- **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.



training, workshops, teaching and lectures. For any questions, please contact the metacampus support ([metacampus@unite-university.eu](mailto:metacampus@unite-university.eu)).

- A written report to the Unite! secretariat on the progress and results of the project should be submitted two months after the project ends (**28 February 2025 at latest**).
- Only a max. of 50% of the funding can be allocated to one partner in the project.

## Evaluation Criteria

### The review quality criteria are:

- Expected added value for and impact on teaching and learning in Unite! (Benefitting students / staff).
- Adequate inclusion of pertinent academic expertise of the Unite! alliance (at least three full Unite! member universities involved).
- Realistic work plan and clear deliverables.
- Adequacy of the funding requested

### Additional review quality criteria are:

- Expectation value (likelihood and potential benefit) of successful follow-up funding proposals and other joint activities.
- Credible commitment to the sustained collaborative activity within Unite.
- If applicable: Potential for outreach and external dissemination of Unite Erasmus+ funding opportunities are well understood and reflected.
- Support of department/unit being responsible (e.g., Deans/Department head)

## Application Procedure

- Applications can be submitted **until 31 May 2023** via email to [seedfund@unite-university.eu](mailto:seedfund@unite-university.eu) or can be uploaded on the Metacampus.
- Kindly contact your university's [Key Liaison Officer](#) for Unite! alliance for application guidance. Inquiries can also be emailed to: [seedfund@unite-university.eu](mailto: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 30 June 2023**.
- **Complete Application form** including project outline (max. 3 A4 pages, signatures can be additional) to be submitted as PDF, which shows how the proposed objectives will be achieved and the funding criteria fulfilled. The budget allocation excel sheet should be filled out and submitted together with the form.
- Supporting documents by the dean of studies of the participating departments of the universities.
- For the establishment of new study programs: Distinction from existing study programs, presentation of the complementary added value as well as a declaration that sufficient personnel and material resources are available for the implementation and execution of the new study program.
- It is strongly recommended that applications be coordinated in advance with the central administration units of the respective universities.