

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

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 Network, 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.

The present “Call for Projects” is the first joint call launched in the framework of this strategic partnerships. It results out of a first needs analysis carried out by UNIPD and UNIL as well as discussions among academics and researchers held during the event “University of Lausanne meets University of Padua” in June 2021 in Lausanne. It also aims at responding to strategic internationalisation priorities of both institutions.

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/	Graduate programmes are short, high-quality intensive	€ 7,000.00

Winter programs	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.	
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

The funded activities may be carried out from January 2022 to 31 March 2023.

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 main applicant must be Professor or Senior Lecturer (MER). At UNIPD, the main applicant 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.

Each application, in order to be evaluated, shall contain 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;
- 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 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.

Applicants are required to specify in the proposal how they intend to distribute the budget among the two institutions (budget share per partner).

Funds that will be allocated to each project cannot be used as staff costs/contributions to salary for academics of UNIPD and UNIL.

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 co-applicants indifferently, [through the dedicated online platform](#), by 26th November 2021, 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 26th November 2021 at 1:00 PM.

9. Application results

All participants will receive a notification of the result of the call via email no later than 15th December 2021. 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.

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.projects@unipd.it, tel.: +39 049 827 7405)
- for University of Lausanne, Mr Marc Pilloud, International Relations Office (marc.pilloud@unil.ch, tel.: +41 21 692 20 23)