

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

### **2024 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 University, 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.

As a result, in November 2021 UNIPD and UNIL have launched a first joint call in order to respond to strategic internationalisation priorities of both institutions, followed by a second and a third call in 2022 and 2023 respectively. Through these three calls, 31 projects were selected and funded, establishing a wide range of collaborations between the two institutions.

The present Call for Projects, represents the fourth joint call between UNIPD and UNIL.

#### **2. 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 with the aim of supporting both the expansion of pre-existing initiatives and the establishment of new collaborations, to further strengthen the collaboration between the two institutions, setting the groundwork for self-supporting, sustainable collaboration programmes.

This call offers two types of grants:

- Consolidation grants
- Seed grants

#### **3. Consolidation grants**

##### Features

The aim of this grant is to expand and strengthen an already existing collaboration, with the objective to create a lasting joint structure. This can take the form of a research network on a specific topic, a UNIL-UNIPD joint centre of expertise, or a joint lab for instance. Other types of ‘joint structures’ may also be proposed. Proposals should clearly describe which activities are foreseen and how the collaboration will be structured.

The project should involve small teams on both sides and must include training/networking opportunities for PhD students and early-stage researchers.

Applicants must clearly elaborate on a pathway towards a self-supporting and sustainable collaboration, which is meant to continue even after the consolidation grant concludes.

Priority will be given to teams whose projects were selected during the previous joint calls.

### Timeline

The funded activities may be carried out from 1 August 2024 to 31 December 2026. Upon the joint committee's approval and based on an extension request, grants can be awarded for an additional year, from 1 January 2027 to 31 December 2027.

### Funding

A total funding of up to 30,000 EUR for three years can be granted. An evaluation after 18 months will determine if the funding for the third year can be awarded. Up to 4 projects are expected to be funded.

### Reporting

A mid-term report will have to be provided on 31 January 2026 (as well as 31 January 2027 for projects having obtained an extension), and a final report is expected within 30 days after the project is concluded.

## 4. Seed grants

UNIPD and UNIL have agreed upon the specific types of initiatives below for which applicants are welcome to present their proposals. Up to 4 projects are expected to be selected. The seed grants aim to support projects with special attention to support graduate students, PhD students and early-stage researchers.

In the selection of seed grants applications, priority will be given to applicants whose project is a new and unprecedented initiative

Eligible initiatives	Short description	Funding
1. Graduate Summer/ Winter programs	Graduate programmes are short, high-quality intensive 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.	Up to 7.000 €
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.	Up to 5.000 €
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	Up to 5.000 €

	facilitates interactions among PhD students and stimulates feedback from more experienced researchers. Maximum duration is three days.	
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The funded activities may be carried out from 1 August 2024 to 31 December 2025. Successful candidates will be requested to prepare a final report within 30 days after the project is concluded.

## 5. Funding details

### Allowable expenses

- organisational costs linked to the implementation of the project;
- consumables needed for the implementation of the project, for an amount covering max. 15% of the total budget of the project;
- fees for the service of external academics or professionals, in case of projects envisaging the participation of external bodies;
- Salary for student assistants hired for a one-off activity (administrative support, data collection), for an amount covering max. 20% of the total budget of the project.
- travel expenses, accommodation and meals when travel is part of the project (in line with each institution's travel regulations);
- publication and dissemination of activities and/or results.

### Non-allowable 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.

### Procedure

Funding will be made available to the 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 to the relevant School/Department as follows:
  - consolidations grants: A first instalment of max. 10,000.00 € will be provided by September 2024. The second instalment will be provided in September 2025 and in case an extension is granted, a third instalment will be provided in September 2026.
  - seed grants: the funding will be made available in full to the relevant School/Department by September 2024.

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 by the International Relations Office.

## 6. 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).
- At UNIPD, the Principal Investigator must be a member of the academic staff. In case of academic staff with fixed-term contact, 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 and 2023 Calls for Proposal are eligible to apply.

## 7. Application

Applicants can apply for Consolidation grants and/or Seed grants 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 and a consolidation grant, 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 **June 10th 2024, at 1:00 PM**, through:

- [the online platform for Consolidation Grants](#)
- [the online platform for Seed Grants](#).

**For consolidation grants only:** candidates applying for a consolidation grant are required to also provide a statement of endorsement, one for UNIL and one for UNIPD, in the form of a pdf file of an email or letter:

- For UNIL, a statement signed by the Head of the Unit and by the Dean of the Faculty is required. The statement must confirm that *"The [name of the unit] and the [name of the faculty] approve the application for the project [title of the project]."*
- For UNIPD, a Deliberation of the Department Board, or Decree of the Director of the Department/Center is required. The statement must confirm that: *the Department/Center approves the application for the project; that it agrees to provide necessary facilities and administrative/accounting support; that any health, safety and ethical requirements have been considered; and that any relevant approvals will be sought before the project begins.*

## 8. 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.

### Consolidation grants:

- Scientific relevance of the chosen theme;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Features of the project which guarantee mid- to long-term sustainability (governance, organisation, etc.)

- Clear definition of the project plan, including internal management of the project, budget, and potential engagement with external partners (if applicable);
- expected outcomes and impact at a sectoral and/or societal level.
- Sustainability: Possibility for the project to become a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration even after the funding support concludes;

Seed grants:

- Pedagogical aspects of the project;
- Scientific relevance of the chosen theme;
- Feasibility of the project;
- Clear definition of the project plan, including internal management of the project, budget, and potential engagement with external partners (if applicable);
- sustainability of the project and opportunity for the project to become a self-supporting, sustainable collaboration even after the funding support concludes;
- short term and long-term perspectives of follow-up activities;
- expected outcomes and impact at a sectoral and/or societal level.

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.

## 9. Deadline

The present call for proposals will remain open for applications until **10th June 2024 at 1:00 PM**.

## 10. Application results

All participants will receive a notification of the result of the call via email by the end of July 2024. The selected projects will also be announced on the UNIPD and UNIL websites.

## 11. Contacts

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

- for University of Padua, 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](mailto:international.partnerships@unipd.it), tel.: +39 049 827 7470)
- for University of Lausanne, Mr Marc Pilloud, International Relations Office ([marc.pilloud@unil.ch](mailto:marc.pilloud@unil.ch), tel.: +41 21 692 20 23)