



Circle U.
European University Alliance

Circle U. COIL Funding Call

Innovating European Teaching through Collaborative
Online International Learning

01.04.2026



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

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Circle U. COIL – Innovating European Teaching through Collaborative Online International Learning

Are you interested in co-teaching? Do you want to give your students an opportunity to collaborate with students from one or more of our Circle U. partner universities in class? Then **Circle U. COIL** might be for you.

As a partner university of the Circle U. Alliance, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) announces funding **to establish COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) as a modern teaching method**. The **Circle U. COIL** Funding Call seeks to add another collaborative learning opportunity to the Circle U. Open Campus and aims to promote innovation and internationalization in education among Circle U. partners: **Circle U. COIL**.

Circle U. is a research-intensive and interdisciplinary alliance committed to excellence in education, research, and innovation, thereby contributing to the development of more sustainable, democratic, and healthier societies. Partner universities include:

- Aarhus University
- University of Belgrade
- University of Louvain
- University of Oslo
- Université Paris Cité
- University of Pisa
- University of Vienna
- *King's College London (associated partner, not eligible to receive direct funding)*

Our aim is to internationalize the teaching of Circle U. partners by connecting courses with Circle U. COIL and to strengthen collaborative teaching within the Alliance. Either **by encouraging the integration of collaborative COIL into existing courses**, or by **developing new courses that incorporate COIL** from the outset.

This **Circle U. COIL** Funding Call awards a **grant of up to €5,000** to support the creation of courses with integrated **Circle U. COIL** that enable students to develop their personalities and prepare them for the 21st century workplace by strengthening their academic, cultural, digital and language skills.

Circle U. COIL are flexible in time and content and can be integrated into existing courses. The core of the COIL element is the **collaborative online working on a task by a mixed group of students**. Responsibility for grading and other administrative aspects tends to remain at the individual university.

Detailed information on the COIL teaching concept can be found at <https://hu.berlin/coil> and <https://hu.berlin/becoil-self-learning>.

This Call is part of **Humboldt4Europe**, HU's national project supporting the European Universities Initiative, funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with resources from the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

ELIGIBILITY

Applications are open to lecturers from all Circle U. universities. Courses must be co-taught by at least **one lecturer with HU affiliation** (student, doctoral candidate, postdoc, professor, etc.) who has the project lead and one lecturer from a Circle U. partner university.

- Lecturers and students from King's College London may participate but are not eligible to receive funding.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should use the application form to briefly describe their project, including objectives, feasible description, planned collaborative activities, expected impact, and a budget calculation.

Grant amount: up to €5,000 per project, depending on scope and scale.

Use of funds: teaching and service contracts, workshops, travel, accommodation, dissemination, and other directly related costs. Only actual costs are reimbursed; lump sums are not allowed. All expenses must be coordinated in advance with the Circle U. Project Manager for COIL.

Selection procedure: Applications are evaluated by the HU International Office on the basis of the selection criteria below.

SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Academic Added Value, Multiperspectivity and Interdisciplinarity**
The proposal must demonstrate the academic added value of the COIL element for existing or new courses. It should explain how collaborative group work enhances students' ability to adopt multiple perspectives and encourage collaboration across different fields and faculties.
- **Accessibility to Students from Other Circle U. Universities (Open Campus)**
The COIL element should be designed to be accessible to students from other Circle U. partners. The collaborative phase should last at least four weeks, comply with the Circle U. Open Campus quality criteria, and provide certificates of attendance for participants.
- **Sustainability of the Initiative**
The proposal should outline how the course will continue beyond the funding period, for example through repetition in subsequent semesters or the establishment of long-term cooperation. Projects that minimise physical mobility are particularly valued, as they are both environmentally and financially more sustainable.
- **Collaboration and Innovative Teaching & Learning Methods**
The proposal should demonstrate a high level of collaboration, with mixed groups of students working intensively on joint tasks over a significant period. The use of innovative and varied teaching and learning methods is particularly encouraged.
- **Diversity and Inclusion**
We value diversity and inclusion in all aspects of collaboration. Proposals that incorporate diverse perspectives, promote gender equality, and support under-represented groups will be given particular consideration.
- **Strengthening Multilingualism**
Proposals that promote the acquisition, strengthening, or use of national languages (other than English) of Circle U. universities will receive particular consideration.

Bonus Criteria: Additional points may be awarded for proposals that are **student-led**, establish **new collaborations**, or include **associated partners**.

TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

- Applications for this call are accepted **until May 31, 2026**.
- You will receive feedback and results via email no later than 4 weeks after submitting your application.
- Projects may start immediately after communication of (positive) results. All invoices must be submitted by the end of the Project.
- Upon conclusion of the collaborative activities, a report must be submitted. A corresponding form for this report will be provided by the Circle U. COIL team.
- The next **Circle U. COIL** Call will be launched in October 1, 2026 with a deadline in 30 November, 2026.

Submission/Contact

Please submit the application form/CVs and questions regarding this call to and Hannah Zoller (Circle U. Project Manager for COIL, hannah.zoller@hu-berlin.de).

If you have any questions or queries, we will hold an info session on 20. Mai 2026 at 12 noon. We will also provide information on funding guidelines during this session. Please use the following link to join us online: <https://hu-berlin.zoom-x.de/j/63934184636>