



Circle U.
European University Alliance

Circle U. COIL Funding Call

Innovating European Teaching through Collaborative
Online International Learning

01.10.2026



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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 the opportunity to have an international experience – to learn across cultures, borders and disciplines – without leaving the classroom? Do you want them to collaborate with students from one or more of our Circle U. partner universities in class? Then **Circle U. COIL** might be for you.

COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning) is an innovative way to connect students and teachers across different universities in a shared project. As a partner university of the Circle U. Alliance, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (HU) supports the development of new collaborative learning opportunities within the Circle U. Open Campus. With this call, we promote new approaches to innovation and internationalization in education among Circle U. partners and invite you to experiment with COIL **as a modern teaching method**.

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)*

With **Circle U. COIL**, you can bring international and collaborative learning into your teaching by connecting your course with partners across the Circle U. Alliance. You can do this by integrating a **COIL element into existing courses**, or by **developing new courses with COIL** built in from the start.

This **Circle U. COIL** Funding Call offers a **grant of up to €5,000** to support the creation of courses that incorporate **Circle U. COIL** and give students the opportunity to learn in an international environment, while further developing their academic, cultural, digital and language skills, thus preparing them for the 21st century workplace.

Circle U. COIL is flexible in time and content and can be integrated into existing courses. The core of the COIL element is the **collaborative online work of a mixed group of students from different Circle U. universities, working together on a shared task or project**. 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 November 30, 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.
- All projects must be accounted for by Nov. 2027
- 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.

Submission/Contact

Please submit the application form/CVs and questions regarding this call to 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 18 November 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/61201236862?pwd=TX75CHaNJomMrLzzbldHbjHVJ0QNpk.1>