

# Circle U. COIL Funding Call

Innovating European Teaching through Collaborative  
Online International Learning

15 05 2025

## « 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 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 elements into existing courses, or by developing new courses that incorporate COIL elements 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 elements 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 elements are flexible in time and content and can be integrated into existing courses. The core of the COIL element is the collaborative working on a task by a mixed group of students. Digital collaboration in the COIL course can also be complemented and intensified by physical mobility of lecturers or 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>.

The Circle U. COIL Funding Call is part of Humboldt4Europe, the HU-based national project supporting the European Universities Initiative, made possible by the generous support of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) with funds from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Applications for Circle U. COIL can be submitted by lecturers from all Circle U. universities. However, the courses must be held in teaching teams consisting of a lecturer from HU and a lecturer from one or more Circle U. partner universities (doctoral candidate, postdoc, professor,...).

*NOTE: Lecturers and students from **King's College** are welcome to participate in Circle U. COIL initiatives but they are not eligible to be recipients of direct funding through this call.*

**NOTE: Teaching teams do not have to exist at the time of application; the project manager at HU will be happy to help you find suitable partners (contact: [christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de](mailto:christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de)).**

## APPLICATION PROCESS

Applicants should use the application form provided and briefly describe their project, covering aspects such as project description, educational aim, joint collaborative activities and budget.

## Funding Procedure

- **Selection Procedure:** Proposals will undergo evaluation and selection by the International Office at Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin based on specific selection criteria (please see below for details).
- **Grant Amount:** Each project may receive a **grant of up to € 5,000**, depending on the scale and scope of the proposed initiative.
- **Administration of Funds:** The HU applicant is solely responsible for managing the approved funds. This includes handling all related costs such as teaching and service contracts, travel expenses, and invoice payments. Only actual costs can be reimbursed; lump sums are not allowed. All expenses must be coordinated in advance with the Circle U. Alliance Manager.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

- **Academic Added Value and Strengthening Multiperspectivity:** The proposal must demonstrate the academic added value of the COIL element to existing courses and how collaborative group work enhances students' multiperspectivity.
- **Accessibility to students from other Circle U. universities:** Circle U. COIL Elements should be designed not only to benefit students from the host university, but also to be open to students from other Circle U. partners. The collaboration phase in Circle U. COIL Elements should therefore last at least four weeks and meet the quality criteria of the Circle U. Open Campus (<https://www.circle-u.eu/open-campus/academics/guide>). Courses with an integrated Circle U. COIL element should be designed in such a way that they are open to students from all nine partner universities during the COIL phase and they receive a certificate of attendance for their participation.
- **Sustainability of the Initiative:** The sustainability of proposed initiatives will be assessed, with preference given to courses that have a clear plan for continuing or repeating the course in a subsequent term after the funding period.
- **Diversity of Activities and Disciplines:** Proposals will be evaluated on how well they expand the academic spectrum of Circle U. partnerships, with the aim of encouraging initiatives from different academic fields and faculties.

- **Strengthening multilingualism:** Proposals that include the acquisition, strengthening, or use of a national language (other than English) of a Circle U. Alliance university will be given particular consideration.
- **Promotion of New Collaborations:** Both existing and new projects may be funded, with preference given to new initiatives of comparable quality.
- **Diversity and Inclusion:** We value diversity and inclusion in all aspects of collaboration. Proposals that include diverse perspectives, promote gender equality and support under-represented groups will be given particular consideration.

## TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

- Applications for this call are accepted until **June 30, 2025**.
- Up to five Circle U. COIL Elements may be funded.
- 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 and allocation of funds to your administrative unit. All funds should be utilized by the end of November 2025.
- Upon conclusion of the collaborative activities, a brief informal report must be submitted. A corresponding form for this report will be provided by the HUB International Office.
- The next Circle U. COIL Call will be launched in January 2026 with a deadline in February 2026.

## Submission/Contact

Please submit the application form/CVs and questions regarding this call to Christian Wilhelm (COIL-Coordinator, [christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de](mailto:christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de)) and Dr. Fritzi-Marie Titzmann (Alliance Manager Circle U. / Humboldt4Europe, [fritzi.titzmann@hu-berlin.de](mailto:fritzi.titzmann@hu-berlin.de)).