



**Circle U.**  
European University Alliance

## **Circle U. COIL Funding Call**

Innovating European Teaching through Collaborative  
Online International Learning



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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](#)<sup>1</sup> 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**.

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 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>.

## 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<sup>2</sup>.

- Lecturers and students from King's College London may participate but are not eligible to receive funding.
- Teaching teams do not need to be finalised at the time of application. The HU COIL project manager can support you in finding partners (contact: [christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de](mailto:christian.wilhelm@hu-berlin.de)).

## 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.

<sup>1</sup> King's College London is an associated partner, not eligible to receive direct funding.

<sup>2</sup> Lecturers and students from King's College London may participate but are not eligible to receive funding.

**Use of funds:** teaching and service contracts, workshops, dissemination, and other directly related costs. Travel and accommodation may be considered only in exceptional cases, as projects are expected to prioritise virtual collaboration formats.<sup>3</sup>

**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 avoid physical mobility and are conducted entirely virtually are particularly valued, as they offer both environmentally and financially more sustainable solutions.*
- **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 Circle U. partners](#).

## TIMELINE AND NEXT STEPS

- Applications for this call are accepted **until November 30, 2025**.
- 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 April 1, 2026 with a deadline in 31 May, 2026.

<sup>3</sup> 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.

**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 Karolin Toledo Flores (Circle U. Project Manager for COIL, [karolin.toledo.flores@hu-berlin.de](mailto:karolin.toledo.flores@hu-berlin.de)).

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