



CALL FOR COURSE PROPOSALS 2021

The Finnish University Partnership for International Development – UniPIID is hereby inviting interested teachers and lecturers to submit course proposals for the UniPIID Virtual Studies programme.

Background

The aim of the UniPIID Virtual Studies programme is to offer equal opportunities for students to learn about global development and sustainability, with a specific focus on Global South perspectives. The programme gives students (including exchange students) at the UniPIID member universities¹ access to free online courses offered by these universities. Thus the programme forms a collaborative effort between UniPIID member universities to avoid duplication and meet the increasing demand and need for courses on sustainable development, international development studies, and global challenges. The courses draw from the UniPIID member universities' specific areas of expertise on these fields. Students can either take individual courses or complete a study module with at least 5 courses, and all credits are to be included in their degree. Courses offered during the current academic year can be found at <https://www.unipid.fi/students/virtual-studies/>.

The 2021 Call for Course Proposals

The 2021 Call for Course Proposals aims to fund courses that contribute to and expand the themes and overall offering of UniPIID's Virtual Studies programme.

Proposals for new courses as well as for updating existing UniPIID courses are welcomed. The following sums are available:

- **Introductory UniPIID course**

A sum of up to 6 500€ is available from UniPIID for the provision of an introductory course providing an overview of the field of development studies, sustainable development and global challenges, with a specific focus on Global South perspectives. The course should cover central themes and important concepts.

¹ Aalto University, Tampere University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki, University of Jyväskylä, University of Lapland, University of Oulu, University of Turku, Åbo Akademi University

- **New UniPID course**

A sum of up to 6 500 € per course is available from UniPID for the creation and provision of a new online course. In this call, there is no single thematic emphasis but proposals that address issues related to gender, civil society, or peace and security are welcomed. We would also welcome proposals with an interdisciplinary approach, as well as courses produced in collaboration with the course providers' partner universities in the Global South. However, other proposals exploring challenges of sustainable development in the Global South will be considered.

- **Updating an existing UniPID course**

A sum of up to 4 500 € per course is available from UniPID for updating a course that has been offered at least 3 times as a part of the UniPID Virtual Studies syllabus.

UniPID would like to offer courses to students all around the year. Should you be able to offer your course during the summer period, we advise you to inform it in your proposal.

Conditions of Funding

UniPID funding for Virtual Studies courses is awarded under the following conditions:

- The prospective contracting party to sign the course agreement should be one of the UniPID member universities;
- Proposed courses can either be entirely new courses or existing courses that will be modified to fit the UniPID Virtual Studies blueprint e.g. by translation into English or transformation from contact instruction into an online format;
- Courses must be added to the member university's syllabus (or Open University) or already be a part of it;
- All online courses should be worth 5 ECTS credits and their primary target group should be master's level students;
- Courses must be offered as a UniPID online course at least three times in consecutive academic years;
- The courses funded under this call should be offered for the first time in the academic year 2021 – 2022 (including the summer 2022);
- Funding is paid to the producing university in total upon signature of the UniPID Virtual Course Contract. The applicant should clarify how the funding can be allocated and administered in their home unit, and how offering the course may affect their work plan. Please note that the contracted university should not deduct overhead costs from this funding, because UniPID is a university network funded by the member universities themselves.

Formulating a Proposal

A course proposal should clearly outline and include the following components:

- course content

- a short description on how the content links to the Global South
- the prior knowledge or skills required from the students
- maximum amount of students enrolled through UniPID
- expected learning outcomes
- pedagogical approach & teaching methods
- learning materials
- plan for the assessment of student performance and forms of feedback provided to students during the course
- addressing the call-specific requirements (if any)
- a preliminary course timetable
- an estimation of course budget
- description of collaboration between teachers/universities (if any)
- possibility to open the course to a broader audience via Open University
- in case the course is produced and offered in collaboration with a partner in the Global South, also
 - description of the arrangement or contract, division of work, and the background of the partnership
 - possibility to open the course also to the students' from the partner university and description of possible challenges included and ways to overcome them,
 - maximum amount of students enrolled from the partner university.

Funding decisions of the eligible proposals will be based on assessment of the following elements:

1. Course Content

- Relevance to the UniPID Virtual Studies programme and the special emphasis of the call
- Timeliness of topic based on up-to-date research
- Inclusion of interdisciplinarity and perspectives from the Global South

2. Online Pedagogy

- Quality of online pedagogical approach, and how well it facilitates
 - collaborative learning
 - communication among students
 - communication between the teacher(s) and the student(s)
 - support for different learning styles
- The structure of the course
- Easy access to the course material and the use of open online resources

3. Learning outcomes and teaching

- The clarity of the articulated learning objectives and outcomes, including the description of the teaching and learning activities to reach them and the course workload to be met by the students

- Clarity of assessment and feedback criteria and mechanisms and their alignment with learning activities and outcomes
- Academic qualifications of the teacher or teaching team
- Earlier online course or online pedagogy experience
- In case the course is produced with a partner from the Global South: responsibilities and division of work with the course staff from the partner university

All proposals should be submitted via the Virtual Studies funding application form on the UniPID website. The form is available at <http://unipid.fi/vs-forms/unipid-virtual-studies-course-funding-application-form/>.

The deadline for proposals is 3 February 2021 at 23:59. The UniPID Board makes the final decisions on the funding, and results will be announced by the end of March 2021 at the latest.

For further information, please contact:

Helmi Jyrkkänen
UniPID Communications and Virtual Studies Coordinator

Contact details are available at <https://www.unipid.fi/unipid/contacts/>

www.unipid.fi