



CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR POOLING COURSES 2025

October 2024

The Finnish University Partnership for International Development – UniPID is hereby inviting interested teachers and lecturers from UniPID member universities¹ to submit course proposals already offered at their home institutions, to be pooled within the UniPID Virtual Studies programme.

Background

The aim of the UniPID Virtual Studies programme is to offer equal opportunities for students to learn about global development and sustainability, especially bringing forward perspectives from the Global South². The programme deepens collaboration between UniPID's member universities and draws on their specific areas of expertise related to global challenges and global responsibility. Students from the member universities, including exchange students, are offered by the possibility to take individual courses from the Virtual Studies Catalogue. Additionally, students can complete an online study module, *Sustainability in Development*, and include the credits in their degree. The courses form a collaborative effort to avoid duplication and meet increasing demand and need for courses on sustainable development and global responsibility. Courses offered in the current academic year, can be found at <http://www.unipid.fi/en/courses/>.

The 2025 Call for Proposals for Pooling Existing Courses

For the first time, UniPID invites teachers and lecturers responsible for existing courses at their home universities to contribute to and expand the themes and offerings of UniPID's Virtual Studies programme.

What does pooling courses involve?

The method of pooling existing courses offered by UniPID's member universities contributes to the idea of sharing expertise in topics aligned with UniPID's mission, avoiding overlap, and expanding the number of courses available in UniPID Virtual Studies. UniPID's member university teachers may propose well-established courses that are already included in degree programmes

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

² see e.g. Waisbich, Roychoudhury & Haug. (2021). Beyond the single story: 'Global South' polyphonies. *Third World Quarterly*. 42(9), pp. 2086-2095. DOI: 10.1080/01436597.2021.1948832.

of the member universities and do not require additional funding to be added to the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme.

Why to offer my course for pooling into the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme?

Offering your course through UniPID Virtual Studies catalogue bring benefits for you and your home University. Some of the advantages are listed below:

- UniPID is a high-quality network that promotes social responsibility, global sustainable development, and equitable academic partnerships. Teaching within this network can positively impact your career. UniPID strongly recommends including your involvement in the pooling initiative in your CV.
- The pooled course can be taken by your students as part of the [UniPID “Sustainability in Development” study module](#). This module consists of 25 ECTS credits, equivalent to 5 UniPID courses.
- The responsible teacher(s) of the course will gain access to materials designed by UniPID to enhance the learning experience. Additionally, UniPID organizes an annual "Good Practices" workshop for teachers, to which teachers of pooled courses are equally invited.
- Your university will gain funding for the credits you award to students from other universities as teaching collaboration is incentivized by the Ministry of Education and Culture in the universities' basic funding.

Any course proposal that adheres to the UniPID [Virtual Studies learning objectives](#) is eligible to apply. Examples of relevant themes include academic freedom, development economics, local initiatives on development, sustainable tourism, decolonial studies, research in developments studies, environmental conflicts, global health, social protection systems, climate justice, and human rights. We would also encourage proponents to present proposals with a strong interdisciplinary approach.

Eligibility of the course pooling

The responsible teacher(s) and the hosting department/faculty must specify how many times (from 1 to 3 semesters) the course will be offered within the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme. To ensure sufficient course offering in the upcoming years, UniPID encourages courses to be offered across consecutive academic years, instead of consecutive semesters. UniPID recommends offering the course more than once and allocating 20 seats for UniPID students.

General Conditions for Pooling courses

The pooling of already existing courses in the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme is subject to the following conditions:

- The prospective contracting party to sign the course agreement should be one of the [UniPID member universities](#).
- Courses must be offered in English and in an online format.
- All online courses should be worth 5 ECTS credits and their target group should include –but not only- master's level students.

- This call for pooling course proposals is exclusively for existing courses which have not yet been offered through UniPID before. Therefore, these courses must already be included in the home institution's curriculum. If you wish to propose an entirely new course designed specifically for UniPID, or to update a UniPID course, please refer to the [UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Course Proposals 2025](#).
- The selected courses for pooling should be offered for the first time in the academic year 2025–2026.

How to submit a proposal?

All proposals should be submitted via the specific form for UniPID Call for Pooling Virtual Courses Proposals. The application page is available at: <https://www.unipid.fi/vs-forms/virtual-studies-call-for-pooling-courses-2025/>.

The submission period for proposals **starts on 3 October 2024 and ends on 4 December 2024**. Afterwards, the UniPID Board meets to evaluate the proposals and make the final decision. The results will be announced by the end of February 2025 at the latest.

Successful applications should include:

- Contact details of the applicant.
- Contact details of the person representing the degree programme/faculty at the home institution with whom the pooling option was discussed/agreed.
- A document containing the virtual course proposal for pooling (3-6 pages).
 - While the proposal format is flexible, we have designed a template to assist with its formulation. You can download the template [here](#). Other formats are also acceptable if all required components are included.
 - Refer to the “Formulating a Proposal” section below for detailed information on the components.
 - If the document size exceeds 1MB, please send it to unipid-info@helsinki.fi

Formulating a Proposal

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

(Please ensure that all required information is provided. Omitting any of the components listed below may negatively impact the evaluation of your proposal.)

- Course title
- Department/Faculty hosting the course
- Course code
- Keywords
- Course content
- Please clearly outline how the existing course's design and content would need to be modified to be suitable for UniPID. For example, if the course is currently designed for in-person delivery, would you be willing to offer it in a hybrid or fully online format? Additionally, please consider the language of instruction. Note that all UniPID courses are taught in English and must be worth 5 ECTS.

- A short description on how the content links to the UniPID Virtual Studies Learning Objectives
- Maximum number of students enrolled through UniPID
- Prior knowledge or skills required from students
- Course objectives and expected learning outcomes
- Pedagogical approach & teaching methods
- Learning materials
- Completion methods
- Plan for the assessment of student performance and forms of feedback provided to students during the course
- A preliminary course timetable
- Possibility to open the course to a broader audience via Open University

Evaluation and final decisions of the eligible proposals for pooling will be based on assessment of the following elements:

1. Course Content

- Relevance and added value to the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme
- Timeliness of topic
- Inclusion of interdisciplinarity and perspectives from the Global South. (Please note that incorporating learning materials produced in the Global South can also help promote diverse perspectives.)

2. Online Pedagogy

- Quality of online pedagogical approach, and how well it facilitates:
 - collaborative learning
 - interaction and participation of the students
 - interaction between the teacher(s) and the student(s)
 - support for different learning styles.
 - student feedback
- 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 teaching and learning activities, and the course workload to be met by the students.
- Articulated assessment and feedback criteria and mechanisms and their alignment with learning activities and outcomes.
- Earlier online course or online pedagogy experience.
- For courses produced with a partner from the Global South: responsibilities and division of work with the course staff from the partner university.

Q&A Info Session

The UniPID Coordination Unit and the Virtual Studies working group will host a virtual info session on **22 October 2024 at 15.-16.30 (EET, Helsinki time)** where potential proponents are welcome to raise their questions about the call and other practicalities.

Please **register here by 18 October 2024** to receive access to the session:
<https://www.unipid.fi/vs-forms/unipid-virtual-studies-call-for-proposals-info-session/>.

Please note that the session will be recorded and will be available later in our [website](#).
For further information, please contact:

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