



UniPID ANNUAL CALL FOR COURSE PROPOSALS

Autumn 2026

The Finnish University Partnership for International Development – UniPID is hereby inviting interested teachers and lecturers from UniPID member universities¹ to submit course proposals for 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, can take individual courses from the Virtual Studies Catalogue. Additionally, students can complete an online study module, *Sustainability in Development*, and include it in their degree. Courses offered in the current academic year, can be found at <http://www.unipid.fi/en/courses/>.

The course catalogue is developed collaboratively by member universities to avoid duplication of teaching and to respond to the growing demand for education on sustainable development and global responsibility. Through its Virtual Studies Programme, UniPID responds to the need for teaching collaboration between higher education institutions that is encouraged and incentivized³ by the Ministry of Education and Culture.

In an increasingly interconnected world, virtual and blended learning environments play a crucial role in enabling students to engage with diverse perspectives, collaborate across borders, and develop competences needed to address global challenges. The UniPID Virtual Studies Programme promotes *Internationalisation at home* (IaH) by providing students with access to expertise, courses, and peer networks beyond their home institution regardless of mobility opportunities. IaH, as part of internationalisation of the curriculum, is about enabling

¹ Aalto University, Hanken School of Economics, Tampere University, University of Eastern Finland, University of Helsinki, University of Jyväskylä, University of Lapland, University of Oulu, University of Turku, 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.

³ Ministry of Education and Culture allocates 1 % of universities' basic funding according to credits obtained via teaching collaboration.

learning environments and embedding international, intercultural and global dimensions into the content of the curriculum, taking into consideration the preparation, delivery, study outcomes and support services⁴. Virtual studies enable more inclusive participation of students and teachers from different geographical, socio-economic and cultural contexts.

The Call for Course Proposals

The annual Call for Proposals aims to identify courses that contribute to and expand the themes and overall offering of UniPID's Virtual Studies programme.

Course proposals for new courses as well as for updating existing UniPID courses are welcome. UniPID is able to provide support for the implementation of the courses, i.e. funding needed for guest lecture fees, teaching assistant salaries to support the online implementation and interactive group work, support needed for Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) collaboration included in the course design.

● New UniPID course

UniPID welcomes proposals for courses not previously offered through UniPID Virtual Studies Programme. A funding of up to 3 000 € per course is available from UniPID to support the development of new online learning opportunities, including the transformation of onsite courses into online formats, adaptation of existing courses for UniPID Virtual Studies, development of COIL collaboration with a Global South partners, or engagement of a teaching assistant to support online interaction and course communication. All course proposals that aligns with the UniPID [Virtual Studies learning objectives](#) is eligible to apply.

For the 2027 call, UniPID particularly welcomes course proposals that contribute to one or more of the following priorities:

- **Challenges of sustainable development in the Global South, including but not limited to** *academic freedom, development economics, sustainable tourism, decolonial studies, research in developments studies, environmental conflicts, global health, social protection systems, climate justice, and human rights*. Interdisciplinary approaches are strongly encouraged.
- **Doctoral-level education**, especially courses focusing on research methodologies, interdisciplinary approaches, responsible research practices, development studies methodologies, and methodological challenges related to sustainability and global development.

⁴Leask, B. (2015). *Internationalizing the Curriculum* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315716954>

- **Collaborative international teaching and learning**, particularly through partnerships with institutions in the Global South, and the use of Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) approaches.
- **Innovative online pedagogies that strengthen internationalization at home** and promote interaction among students from different institutions, countries and disciplinary backgrounds.
- **Project management in Development Cooperation.** UniPID welcomes applications for a course focusing on development project management in practice (project cycle management, budgeting, assessment, evaluation, theory of change). In this context, we encourage considering the possibility of using [Fingo's online self-study package](#) on project management in the proposed course; however, this is not required.

● **Updating an existing UniPID course**

A sum of up to 2000 € per course is available from UniPID for updates and development of courses that have previously been offered as a part of the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme and whose agreements have concluded. Please note that the design and content of an existing course can be modified to align the criteria of the current call.

UniPID welcomes course proposals developed in collaboration with partner institutions in the Global South. In such cases, applicants should demonstrate that the partnership is based on jointly agreed objectives, a clear division of responsibilities, and reciprocal benefits for all partners. Practical considerations, such as student participation, credit recognition, scheduling across time zones, internet accessibility, and access to learning materials, should be addressed in the proposal.

A signed contract with UniPID includes commitment to offer the course three times. To ensure sufficient course offering in the upcoming years, UniPID encourages courses to be offered across three consecutive academic years (instead of three consecutive semesters) and to include at least 25 UniPID students per course.

Conditions of Funding

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

- The contracting party signing the course agreement should be one of the [UniPID member universities](#).
- Before the first course implementation, the responsible teacher must ensure that the course is added in the curriculum. The teachers are requested to contact their respective heads of degree programme/faculty well in advance before submitting the proposal to discuss the possibility and approval process to confirm the feasibility of

offering the course through UniPID Virtual Studies Programme. Please note that the offered courses also need to be connected with RIPA (cross institutional study service).

- 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 over consecutive academic years**.
- The courses funded under this call should be offered for the first time in the **2027-2028 academic year**.
- Funding is paid to the providing university in total upon signature of the UniPID Virtual Course Agreement. Applicants should clarify how the funding can be allocated and administered in their home unit, and how offering the course may affect their work plan. As UniPID is a network, funded by its member universities, **no overhead costs may be deducted from this funding**.
- This funding call is intended for courses that do not receive dedicated external financial support. Applicants are asked to indicate whether the course already receives support from their institution or from external funding sources. If the course is part of the curriculum covered by basic funding, or if the course is already externally funded, please briefly explain the source of funding and how it supports the course. In such cases, the budget section of the application may be left blank.
 - If the course is part of a larger externally funded project, applicants must explain how the course relates to the project and justify why additional UniPID support is sought.
- UniPID recognizes that designing and delivering online courses in a multi-institutional environment requires significant investment in coordination, communication, pedagogical planning, and student support. At the same time, collaborative course delivery expands access to expertise across institutions, strengthens academic networks, and enriches the student learning experience. Applicants are encouraged to explain how responsibilities are shared among partners and how the requested funding will support successful implementation.
- The UniPID Coordination Unit can provide advice and support for course teams interested in developing Global South partnerships, COIL components, and other forms of virtual international collaboration.

How to submit a proposal?

All proposals should be submitted via the specific form for UniPID Virtual Studies funding application on the UniPID website. The application page is available at: <https://www.unipid.fi/vs-forms/unipid-virtual-studies-call-for-proposals-2026/>.

The submission period for proposals **starts on Monday 5 October 2026 and ends on Monday 30 November 2026**. The UniPID Board makes the final decision on the funding, and the results will be announced by the end of March 2027 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 integration of the proposal into curriculum was discussed/agreed.
- A preliminary budget and budget justification describing how the requested UniPID funding will be used and how the proposed activities contribute to the development, implementation and/or improvement of the course
- A document containing the virtual course proposal (max 5 pages)
 - While the proposal format is flexible, we have designed a template to assist with its formulation. **The template is available at UniPID website, or you can ask it via email from unipid-info@uef.fi**. 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@uef.fi

Formulating a Proposal

A course proposal 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
- Course code (if available)
- Course content
- A short description on how the course contributes to the themes and priorities of the 2027call
- Maximum number of students enrolled through UniPID
- Prior knowledge or skills required from students
- Course objectives and expected learning outcomes
- Pedagogical approach and teaching methods
- Learning materials
- Course completion requirements
- Assessment methods and forms of feedback provided to students during the course
- A preliminary course timetable

- A budget outlining the planned use of UniPID funding, including the allocation of funds between partners/collaborators (if relevant), and a short justification for each major budget category
- A statement indicating whether the course has received external funding from any institution or funding body. Please also explain why additional funding from UniPID would be required
- Description of collaboration between teachers, universities or other partners (if any)
- Description of the status of the course:
 - a new UniPID course
 - update of an existing UniPID course
 - Please also indicate whether the course requires support for the adaptation of an existing online course or the conversion of an onsite course into an online course. In such cases, provide an explanation of the modifications needed
- Possibility to open the course to a broader audience via Open University
- For courses produced and offered in collaboration with a partner university (in the Global South) include also:
 - Description of the terms of collaboration agreed, arrangement or contract, division of work, and the background of the partnership
 - Information on whether the course can be also opened to students from the partner institution and description of possible challenges included and ways to overcome them
 - Maximum number of students enrolled from the partner institution

Evaluation criteria

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

1. Course Content

- Relevance and added value to the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme
- Contribution to the emphasis of the call
- Timeliness and significance of the course 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.)
- Feasibility and use of resources (the alignment between requested funding and planned activities)

2. Online Pedagogy

- Quality of online pedagogical approach, and how well it facilitates:
 - collaborative learning

- o interaction and participation of the students
 - o interaction between the teacher(s) and the student(s)
 - o support for different learning styles
 - o meaningful student feedback and guidance
- Quality and coherence of the course structure
- Accessibility of the course material and the use of open-access 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.