



Funding Line transdisciplinary_innovation: Call for Flagship Courses 2026-27

1. Objectives

The call for proposals supports the development of flagship courses for the inter-/transdisciplinary core program of the [School for Transdisciplinary Studies](#) (STS). Flagship courses serve the strategic development of the STS portfolio.

They address inter-/transdisciplinary subject areas in which – due to their paramount importance for future social and economic developments – as many UZH students as possible should be able to acquire knowledge and skills, regardless of their subject area.

The inter- and transdisciplinary synthesis is a key element of the course portfolio.

2. Key dates

- a. Deadline for submission: **December 15, 2026**.
Individuals planning to submit an application are required to contact the Managing Director of STS Rebekka Reichold (rebekka.reichold@uzh.ch) and the Head of ULF Management Dr. Anna Leupold (transdisciplinary@ulf.uzh.ch) early for an initial consultation.
- b. Decision on approval of proposals and announcement of funding decision: **March 2027**.
- c. Earliest possible use of funding for approved projects: **May 2027**.

3. Allocation procedure

- a. All professors, lecturers and privatdozenten at UZH are welcome to submit a proposal with their project ideas.
- b. Following the submission of the proposal, it will be reviewed in regard to its compliance with the formal and content-related criteria (for more information, please refer to item 5 “Award Criteria”). Applicants will be contacted if any questions arise or changes concerning the formal criteria are required.
- c. Subsequently, each proposal is reviewed by the project team of the Educational Development Office (consisting of representatives from the STS and the Educational Development Office) and evaluated in regard to the criteria.
- d. In the final step, all projects are discussed by the STS Executive Board in light of the results of the review. The Executive Board makes the final decision on the funding of the projects (usually one or two projects). The applicants are immediately informed about the decision.

4. How to submit proposals

- a. Please submit your proposal as well as the requested budget via the forms provided on the website and send them to the following address no later than December 15, 2026: transdisciplinary@ulf.uzh.ch.
- b. You may attach additional materials (e. g. graphics, offers, etc.) to the application as a single PDF document.
- c. Content-related information you need in order to submit your application is provided in the form. Please direct general queries about the call to transdisciplinary@ulf.uzh.ch.

5. Award criteria

a. Formal criteria

Fundamentals

- The application is formally complete, and the content is coherent.
- All professors, lecturers and privatdozents employed at UZH are eligible to apply.
- The maximum duration of projects is four semesters.

Finances

- The maximum funding amount is CHF 80,000.
- The funds provided are exclusively used in a target-oriented approach.
- Should you request individual acquisitions (movable capital assets, software licenses, etc.) over CHF 10,000 you must address these costs in the initial consultation before submitting the application and technically justify them in the proposal. Applications for operating funds must be proportionate to the overall budget of the project.
- For the budgeting of funds for the production of teaching resources (e.g. videos, online self-learning paths, OLAT interfaces, etc.) we recommend consulting [the service catalog of Central IT](#) early on. This catalog lists all UZH tools and services with their respective prices. If you are planning your own web application or app for mobile devices, please consult the [IT security experts at Central IT](#) to assess which security standards you need to consider and whether there might be costs for security tests.
- Staff appropriation: It is possible to employ UZH staff for transdisciplinary_innovation projects, provided they only work part-time outside the project, and the combined employment level does not exceed 100%. The additional staff requirement must be justified in the application.
- Expenses: An expense allowance of CHF 300 can be requested in the application. In the case of higher amounts, a justification must be given as to why these are absolutely necessary for the success of the project.

b. Funding Criteria

Fundamentals

- The proposed course meets the [STS quality criteria](#).
- Relevance of content: The proposed course addresses an inter-/transdisciplinary subject area that encompasses a current or future development of major social importance and will concern all or a large proportion of UZH students in their future living and/or working environment.

- The course is characterized by a broad inter-/transdisciplinarity. This includes, among other things, co-teaching by at least three instructors from different disciplines. The course aspires to represent different faculties and as many scientific fields as possible (e.g., humanities, social sciences, [veterinary] medicine, natural sciences).
- As many students as possible should be able to benefit from the course. This may be achieved, amongst other things, through the possible number of participants in the course, but also through its frequency or even its exemplary nature, which is transferable to other subject areas.
- The projects comply with the [Diversity Policy](#) and the [Sustainability Policy](#) of UZH.
- The projects aim to make the new courses as accessible as possible.¹

Criterion inter- and transdisciplinary Teaching

- The expertise of the different disciplines and actors from practice involved is not limited to a mere coexistence (multidisciplinarity), but leads to an inter- and transdisciplinary synthesis. Reflection on inter-/transdisciplinarity is part of the course.
- The course is aimed at students from all faculties and study programs at UZH. In terms of content and didactics, it is designed in such a way that it draws on different backgrounds and exploits this diversity in the examination of the respective topic.
- Learning objectives, learning activities and assessments are closely aligned and presented coherently in the proposal.

Criterion Effectiveness

- The objectives of the project are clear and can be achieved during the project duration.
- The project results are regularly discussed between the project team and the support team of the Educational Development Office and evaluated according to the agreed upon instruments.
- The use of digital technologies or the development of digital applications is generally feasible at UZH. Necessary clarifications regarding interfaces, data protection and support after the project duration have been made. Existing applications, such as OLAT or Microsoft 365, are used and not replaced by new applications with the same functions.
- The course is designed to also be accessible for students with impairment.

Criterion Sustainability

- Once the start-up funding expires, the course is continued. An initial business plan for the implementation of the course after the start-up funding by the ULF funding line transdisciplinary_innovation is available (in outline).
- The project promotes the development of the education staff's skills.

Criterion exemplariness and/or broad effect

- The didactic concept can be transferred to other courses. The findings or partial findings can be transferred within or outside the STS.

¹ Information and support on the topic of accessibility can be found on the website of the [Disability Office](#). Information on designing accessible digital teaching can be found on our [Teaching Tools platform](#). If you have any questions or uncertainties, we will also be happy to consult you on this topic. Please contact us at transdisciplinary@ulf.uzh.ch.

- The projects supported by the ULF-funding line transdisciplinary_innovation can be made accessible to a wider audience (visibility and transparency of teaching activities).

AND / OR

- The planned innovation will benefit a large number of students.
- The planned project offers great benefits for large student cohorts.

Criterion student involvement

- Students are involved in the design, planning, and reflection of the teaching project.
- The perspective of the students is directly incorporated into the project.
- The project considers the heterogeneity of the students.
- The benefit of the project for students is apparent.