



Funding Line global_innovation: Call Fall Semester 2026

1. Objectives

The aim of the UZH Teaching Fund (ULF) is to strengthen and further develop high-quality and innovative teaching at UZH. It is guided by the strategic directions for teaching defined in the UZH Curriculum¹. One of these guiding principles is to provide UZH students with a variety of internationalization experiences.

The UZH Teaching Fund ties in with the goal of UZH's Global Strategy². It focuses on sustainable cooperation in research and teaching and thus contributes to overcoming complex social challenges. At the same time, it expands the geographical and thematic horizon beyond Europe. The development and establishment of mobility options for UZH students as well as creating adequate framework conditions for international students coming to UZH are crucial for the implementation of the Global Strategy in teaching. As part of the global_innovation funding line, ULF specifically supports courses that establish and sustainably anchor institutional cooperation in teaching with UZH partner universities. Projects at study program level are funded via the program_innovation funding line. For information on the procedure and the specific application process, please send an e-mail to global@ulf.uzh.ch. This call for proposals only applies to projects at module level.

Another focus of the funding line is the Internationalization@Home³. This is crucial since not all students have the opportunity and/or are willing to spend time abroad. Therefore, the goal is to create opportunities to gain a variety of internationalization experiences, that take place directly at UZH or in Switzerland, i.e. international summer, winter or methods schools, or through the development of Cooperative Online International Learning modules (COIL). At the same time, a central component of this is to develop attractive opportunities for incoming students from non-German-speaking countries, to organize professional onboarding for these students and to provide them important information even before they arrive in Zurich. This will give incoming students as realistic a picture as possible of UZH and Switzerland, which will increase the attractiveness of the University of Zurich for incoming students.

This year, for the first time, UZH has access to SEMP⁴ funds for the promotion of so-called Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs), a funding format of the Erasmus+/SEMP program. The program promotes teaching formats in which virtual teaching and learning phases are combined with a short attendance phase at a partner university. The funding will be awarded in this call together with the Global Student Experience department for the introduction and establishment of such a format at UZH. The exact framework conditions can be found either on the [Global Student Experience website](#) or in the specific application form for this format.

¹ See [UZH Curriculum](#).

² See [UZH Global Strategy](#).

³ Internationalization@Home is "...the purposful integration of international and intercultural dimensions into the formal and informal curriculum for all students within domestic learning environments " (s. Jos Beelen & Elspeth Jones (2015): Redefining Internationalization at Home», Adrian Curaj at al. (Eds.) : The European Higher Education Area, Springer.)

⁴ Swiss European Mobility Programme

2. Key dates

- a. Deadline for submission: **September 15, 2026**.
- b. Decision on approval of proposals and announcement of the funding decision: **November 2026**.
- c. Earliest possible use of funding for approved projects: **January 2027**.

3. Allocation procedure

a. Eligibility to apply and forms

All UZH teaching staff are welcome to submit a proposal with their project ideas. Applications must be sent complete and on time to global@ulf.uzh.ch. A distinction is made between

- a. Projects at module level that promote Internationalization@Home and for whose implementation no funds are requested in parallel from the Global Student Experience department of a BIP⁵, and
- b. Projects that want to coordinate a BIP for the first time and establish it at UZH.

For each category there is a separate application form.

b. Formal and content examination

Following the submission of the proposal, it will be reviewed with 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. Evaluation

Subsequently, each proposal is reviewed by the project team of the Educational Development Office and evaluated with regard to the criteria (see “Award criteria”).

d. Decision

In the final step, all projects are discussed by the commission for Education and Student Affairs in light of the results of the review. The commission makes the final decision on the funding of the projects. The applicants are immediately informed about the decision.

4. How to submit proposals

a. Submission of the application

Please submit your proposal as well as the requested budget via the forms provided on the website and send them no later than September 15, 2026, to global@ulf.uzh.ch.

b. Additional Material

You may attach additional materials (e. g. graphics, offers, etc.) to the application as a single PDF document.

c. Content-related information and queries

Content-related information you need in order to submit your application is provided in the form. The Head of ULF-Management Dr. Anna Leupold (global@ulf.uzh.ch) is available for an initial consultation in case of queries regarding the call or the budget.

⁵ Information on the opportunity for promoting the coordination of a BIP at UZH can be found here: https://www.int.uzh.ch/en/staff/erasmus/bip_organizers.html

5. Award criteria

a. Formal criteria

Fundamentals

- The application is formally complete, and the content is coherent.
- All teaching staff employed at UZH are eligible to apply.
- The maximum duration of projects at the module level is 4 semesters.
- Projects must have an international focus, either by explicitly promoting Internationalization@Home or by developing a course/learning resource together with a UZH partner institution⁶.

Finances

- **Maximum funding amount:** For projects at the module level a maximum of CHF 50,000 can be requested.
- **Purposeful use of funds:** The funds provided are exclusively used in a target-oriented approach.
- **Purchases over CHF 10,000:**
 - Individual acquisitions (movable capital assets, software licenses, etc.) over CHF 10,000, must be addressed in an initial consultation before submitting the application and technically justified in the proposal.
 - Applications for operating funds must be proportionate to the overall budget of the project.
 - The amount of material expenditure must correspond to the objectives of the project and be appropriate.
- **Production of teaching materials:**
 - 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 global_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, e.g. for board, travel costs, representational costs etc.
 - Higher amounts need to be justified and are only admissible if they are absolutely necessary for the success of the project.
 - Expenses to finance travel costs for students cannot be covered.
 - The [Expense Regulations](#) of the UZH must be adhered to.

⁶ UZH partner institutions can be found here: https://www.global.uzh.ch/en/global_university/funding-instruments/partnerships-fund/network-and-other-priority-partners.html. In justified cases, other teaching collaborations are also possible if they are subject-specific or based on the particular expertise of the partner university.

b. Funding criteria

Fundamentals

- Not all content criteria need to be fulfilled, but the commission for Education and Student Affairs uses them as orientation when reviewing the applications.
- The projects provide UZH students with opportunities to gain intercultural and/or international experience and to acquire relevant knowledge and skills.
- 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.⁷

Criterion intercultural and international Teaching

- The teaching methods are tailored to the intercultural setting of the teaching format and promote the development and reflection of intercultural skills among students and lecturers. For example, topics such as intercultural differences and student diversity are explicitly addressed. Challenges in intercultural cooperation are used productively for the teaching format and reflected upon. Further tips can be found on [Teaching Tools](#).
- Learning objectives, learning activities and assessments are closely aligned and presented coherently in the proposal.
- The assessment considers the heterogeneity of the students and creates fair conditions for all participants to be able to pass it.

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 are 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.
- Typical challenges of international teaching, such as differing semester times, fixed module dividers (ECTS per module) or different time zones, are taken into account in the planning.

Criterion Sustainability

- Once the start-up funding expires, the course is continued or offered again.
- A business plan for the implementation of the course after the start-up funding by the ULF funding line global_innovation is available (in outline).
- Should the project management be unable to continue the course, active efforts will be made to find a successor.
- The project promotes the development of the education staff's skills.

⁷ 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 global@ulf.uzh.ch.

- The course is not exclusively linked to one teacher but will be anchored in the study program if successful and disseminated in teaching through appropriate materials or other means.

Criterion exemplariness and/or broad effect

- The didactic concept can be transferred to other courses.
- The projects supported by the ULF-funding line global_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 of one or more study programs.
- 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.