

Ulysseus Seed Fund Call for Teachers!

Co-teach, Co-create, Connect:
Unite your students in a virtual classroom

Are you passionate about innovation in education? Do you want to collaborate internationally and enhance your students' learning experience through a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)? **Ulysseus European University** invites teaching staff from all disciplines to apply for the **new Seed Fund Call!**

Take this opportunity to:

- Collaborate with an international colleague from another Ulysseus European University
- Pilot a COIL, as an innovative online learning experience (virtual classroom) for your students
- Provide your students a global perspective through an enriching virtual exchange

**Applications are open
until 31 January 2026!**

[Apply here!](#)



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Introduction

The Ulysseus Seed Fund for Teachers is designed to provide financial support for innovative, co-creative, and collaborative ideas in teaching and learning across the [Ulysseus European University](#) alliance.

In this Seed fund call **applicants may apply for funding for a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL)** in existing academic courses.

COIL

Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) connects existing academic courses **across institutions through virtual collaboration, fostering** cross-cultural exchange **among students and teachers**. A COIL is not a new course; rather, it is an innovative methodology designed to enhance the delivery of an existing course in a virtual classroom setting.

Seed funding is available to support teachers from at least two different Ulysseus partner universities in the joint design and delivery of a COIL. Eligible costs may include travel and related expenses for an in-person meeting at one of the partner universities, providing space and time to collaboratively shape this innovative educational format.

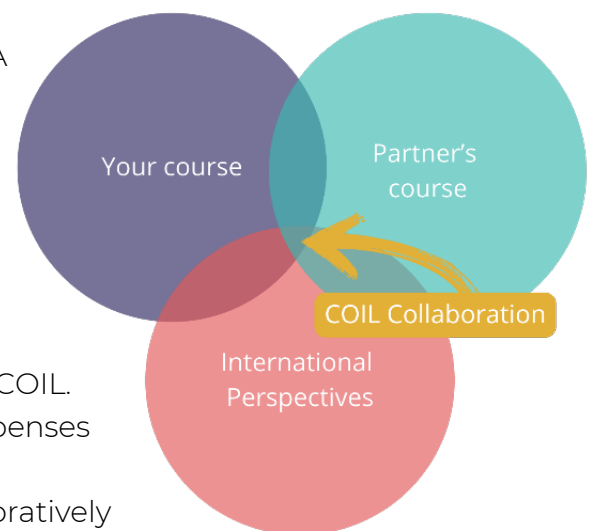


Figure 1 COIL graph (source: Ulysseus)

Key Features

- **Collaboration between teachers** from two or more Ulysseus universities, **in any discipline**.
- **Integrated into** existing academic courses (similar topic or transversal).
- **Delivered** synchronously, asynchronously, or both.
- **Students work together online, and receive ECTS and are graded by their home university.**
- **Must be an** integral part of the curriculum with a duration of 1 week to 1 semester (recommended 5-14 weeks).

See the [Ulysseus COIL Handbook: A Practical Guide for Educators](#) for guidance.

COIL Framework

Table 1 COIL Features

	COIL (Collaborative Online International Learning)
Definition	Connects at least two <u>existing</u> courses from Ulysseus partners, where teachers collaborate to include an international, online component. It fosters intercultural competence and global engagement without requiring physical travel.
Course structure	Built into an already existing course at each participating institution.
Teacher collaboration	Teachers from different institutions work together to design and facilitate the international collaboration element. Involves at least one partner from the Ulysseus alliance.
Student groups	Students from each institution participate in their respective courses but collaborate on specific international tasks or projects.
Student value	Provide your students with an enriching international experience from within the classroom while fostering collaboration across disciplines and partner universities.
Student interaction	International interaction in specific collaborative tasks or projects.
Curriculum Integration	COIL is not a standalone course; it should be embedded within an existing course, with the focus on integrating international collaboration into the current curriculum.
Student recognition	Students receive ECTS and are graded by their home university.
Flexibility	Flexible, as it adapts to existing course structures and schedules.
Institutional effort	Requires moderate effort to integrate the international collaboration/element into existing courses.
Duration	The duration can range from a minimum of 1 week to a full semester, with a recommended length of 5 to 14 weeks.
Example	Joint projects, discussions, or case studies integrated into existing courses.

Funding & Financial Procedures

This seed funding supports academics in co-creating a COIL, enabling teachers to meet in person for joint design and planning. By applying to this call, applicants agree to the following conditions:

- The applicant may receive up to **€2,500** in financial support for planning and designing the COIL together with the collaborating partner.
- The funds will be paid to the applicant(s) (= travelling teacher) by his/her/their Ulysseus home university.
- Expenditures will be reimbursed on the basis of actual costs incurred, supported by documentation (e.g. invoices, travel tickets).
- Travel costs must comply with the local university's travel policies and regulations, and must be economically justifiable.
- **Proof of delivery:** After the COIL has taken place, the granted teacher submits a short report including:
 - An overview of expenditures
 - A brief reflection via the Project Report Form on outcomes and lessons learnt ([external link to Report Form](#)).
 - Optional: sharing of additional written documentation and/or photos.
- If the agreed COIL outcome is not delivered, the eight Ulysseus higher education institutions reserve the right to demand repayment of any expenditures incurred or disbursed by the applicant.

Overview of Grant

Table 2 Grant Details

Eligible applicants	Teachers and Lecturers of the 8 Ulysseus partner universities
Expected Output	Applicants may request funding to plan and design a COIL.
Language of application & instruction	English (as lingua franca)
Seed fund of accepted proposal in this call	Max. 2500€
Deadline for proposals:	31 January 2026
Announcement of results:	by 1 March 2026
Funding period for this call:	The COIL must be implemented by 1 March 2027 , with all expenses claimed by this deadline.
Link to Application Form	Application details per institution can be found in table 3 on page 8

Partner Collaboration & Matchmaking

When applying for the Seed Fund applicants must have already reached an agreement with their collaborating colleague(s) from other Ulysseus partner universities.

If you are interested in collaborating but have not yet identified a partner, you are encouraged to explore the following **matchmaking opportunities**:

1. Sign up for the [Ulysseus Online Matchmaking Event for COIL Collaboration](#) taking place on 29 October 2025 (online)!
2. [Collaboration Matchmaking Form](#): Please note that this is a **general collaboration form**, also intended for other types of collaboration **not supported by the Seed Fund Call**.

3. [Ulysseus Local Mobility Officer](#): Reach out to your [Local Mobility Officer](#) (page 10) for assistance with matchmaking opportunities.

Application Procedure

Checklist: Submission Requirement

- **Submission:** Confirm a mutually agreed collaboration with a Ulysseus partner teacher to co-create a COIL. Applications must be submitted exclusively by the travelling partner, using the local application form (see Table 3). The application window remains open **until 31 January 2026**.

In cases where there is a valid and well-argued reason to meet twice, at both universities, it is possible for both partners to each submit a separate application.

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- **Host university department approval:** Obtain an endorsement letter from the Head of Department at the host university (see annex for example).
- **Supervisor approval:** Obtain approval from your supervisor (email confirmation is sufficient).
- **Course abstract:** Provide a course abstract that includes a course description and a work plan (max. 500 words).
- **Budget allocation:** Include a detailed explanation of the budget allocation.

Local Application Form

Table 3 Application Form per university

Ulysseus European University		Proposal Submission Form	
University of Seville		Seed Fund Application Form for USE Lecturers (external link)	

Eligibility & Selection Criteria

Selection Criteria

- Expected added value for teaching and learning in Ulysseus (benefitting students/staff)
- Relevance of academic expertise on the topic
- Clearly formulated budget and goals
- Realistic work plan with clear deliverables
- Letter of support from partner university

Selection Process

The selection process consists of two phases:

1. Each partner university's local selection committee will review applications and nominate candidates.
2. The Ulysseus Joint Educational Committee, with representatives from all eight partner universities, will review selections and decide on conditional acceptance, approval, or rejection.

Overview Timeline

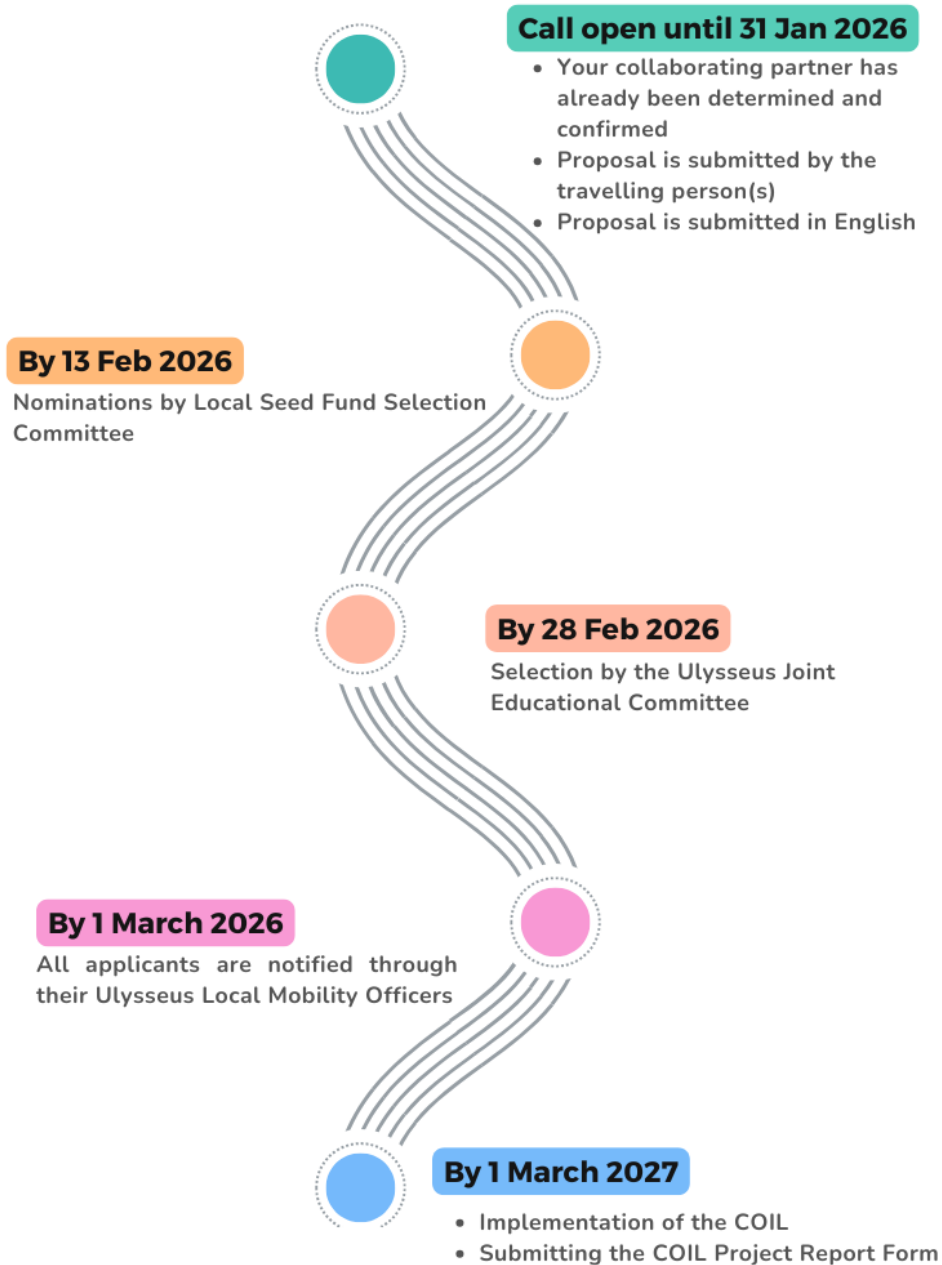


Figure 2 Seed Fund Call Timeline

Contact Details

Table 4 Application Form per university

Members Ulysseus European University	Contact Details	Local Mobility Officer
University of Seville	mobilityulysseus@us.es	Carmen Hinojosa

Resources & Links

- [Ulysseus COIL Handbook: A Practical Guide for Educators](#)
- [Collaboration Matchmaking Form](#) (please note that this is a general collaboration form, also intended for other types of collaboration not supported by the Seed Fund Call)
- Registration for [Ulysseus Online Matchmaking Event for COIL Collaboration](#) (29 October 2025, online)
- [Contact details Ulysseus Local Mobility Officer](#)



Ulysseus Seed Fund Call for Teachers Endorsement Letter

We hereby declare our interest in collaborating with [Teacher's Name(s)] from [Partner University] as part of the Seed Fund Call initiative for a Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL).

Topic: Topic

Date: Start date and/or semester period

Sincerely,

[signature].

Full name

Position (department head)

Department/Faculty

Name of university

Current date: