



CALL FOR COURSE PROPOSALS 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 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, 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 Course Proposals

The 2025 Call for Proposals aims to fund 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. Average sums assigned for the courses:

- **New UniPID course**

A sum of up to 6 500 € per course is available from UniPID for the creation and provision of a new online course. Any course proposal that adheres to the UniPID [Virtual Studies learning objectives](#) is eligible to apply.

However, for this call, UniPID wishes especially proposals addressing one of the following two themes:

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.

- **Challenges of sustainable development in the Global South.** This theme includes but is not limited to the following topics: *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.
- **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.

UniPID welcomes course proposals developed in collaboration with partner universities in the Global South. In such cases, proponents are required to briefly elaborate on the terms of collaboration agreed with the potential partner and home university. Applicants must consider practical aspects such as allocating credits to students from Global South universities, the course schedule, access to internet connection and teaching materials, and the timing of the sessions to ensure they are convenient for all partners involved.

- **Updating an existing UniPID course**

A sum of up to 4500 € per course is available from UniPID for updating a course that has been offered at least 3 times as a part of the UniPID Virtual Studies syllabus. Please note that the existing course's design and content can be modified to fit the current call's criteria.

A signed contract with UniPID requires three semesters of teaching. 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 50 UniPID students per course.

Conditions of Funding

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

- The prospective contracting party to sign the course agreement should be one of the [UniPID member universities](#).
- This call for proposals is exclusively for entirely new courses designed and developed to align with the UniPID Virtual Studies objectives, or for courses previously offered (at least three times) within the UniPID Virtual Studies programme. If you wish to propose an existing course e.g. at your home university, but has not yet been offered within the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme, please refer to the [UniPID Virtual Studies Call for Pooling Courses](#).
- Upon selection (but before the first offering of the course) the responsible teacher must ensure that the course is added to the member university's syllabus (or Open

University). 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 of introducing a new course unit into the curriculum, either as an entirely new course unit or as a new implementation of an existing course code considering the ongoing curriculum.

- 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 in consecutive academic years.
- The courses funded under this call should be offered for the first time in the academic year 2025–2026.
- Funding is paid to the providing university in total upon signature of the UniPID Virtual Course Contract. 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. Please note that the contracted university should not deduct overhead costs from this funding, because UniPID is a university network funded by the member universities themselves.

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-2025/>

The submission period for proposals **starts on 3 October and ends on 4 December 2024**. The UniPID Board makes the final decision on the funding, and 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 integration of the proposal into curriculum 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 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)
- Keywords
- Course content.
- A short description on how the content links to the Global South.
- 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.
- An estimation of course budget allocated for each partner/collaborator.
- Description of collaboration between teachers/universities (if any).
- 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.
 - Possibility to open the course also to the students from the partner university and description of possible challenges included and ways to overcome them.
 - Maximum number of students enrolled from the partner university.

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

1. Course Content

- Relevance and added value to the UniPID Virtual Studies Programme
- Special emphasis of the call
- 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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