



RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Darmstadt/ Frankfurt am Main/ Mainz, 2026

(Deadline: 7 April 2026)

With the RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching, the Rhine-Main Universities support collaborations for the development of new, attractive study offers, for the cooperative further development of the existing curricular offers and for the joint testing of innovative teaching/learning formats.

The call for proposals is for two funding formats.

1: Study offers; 2: Thinking Tomorrow's Teaching Today

Funding format 1: Study offers

Funding measure

Technical University of Darmstadt, Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz promote **jointly conceived, sustainable collaborations in teaching** involving teachers from at least two of the three Rhine-Main Universities (RMU) with **human and/or material resources of up to 45,000 euros** for a **maximum period of one year**.

Objectives of the call for proposals and current focus

The current call for proposals places the focus on research-oriented settings for teaching/learning, where **project-based or problem-based teaching/learning formats** are used in particular.

Die aktuelle Ausschreibung fördert schwerpunktmäßig forschungsorientierte Lehr-/Lernsettings. Dabei sollen vor allem projektbasierte bzw. problem-based-Lehr-/Lernformate zum Einsatz kommen.

Funding scenarios

- Development of specific **RMU study programs** (in module form) that are jointly developed by (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU universities. Modules or courses can also be designed in digital form or as a blended learning format.
- Development of specific **RMU modules** that are jointly developed by (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU. These modules must be integrated into the curriculum, a corresponding cooperation agreement must be concluded. The RMU modules

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can be designed as digital modules or as blended learning formats.

- **Structural integration of existing modules** between (at least) two universities. The modules are to be integrated into the relevant examination regulations, a cooperation agreement must be concluded.
- Collaboration at **course** level at (at least) two departments of (at least) two of the RMU universities. The required collaboration between students can take place onsite, online or in hybrid form. The coursework and examinations are completed in accordance with the examination regulations in the existing degree programs of the respective university.

Funding terms

- Applications are accepted for projects involving teachers from at least two of the three RMU; at least one of the teachers must be employed at the university on a permanent basis.
- The collaboration projects can be both subject-related and interdisciplinary in nature.
- Funding amounting to a total of EUR 45,000 for a maximum period of one year is available for human and/or material resources for designing and/or implementing the collaboration (for instance, positions for staff, assistants, material resources).

Funding criteria

Decisions on funding are taken based on how and to what extent applications meet the criteria listed below:

- Das Vorhaben erweitert das Lehr-/Lernangebot der beteiligten RMU erkennbar und nutzt Potenziale, die sich aus einer Zusammenarbeit der RMU im Bereich Studium und Lehre ergeben.
- The project makes use of the high degree of complementarity between the participating universities and convincingly combines complementary subject and/or methodological expertise.
- The project is designed for sustainability and long-term added value compared to the existing teaching offer. Sustainability must be clearly defined in the application and explicitly confirmed by the relevant institution (for instance, planned anchoring in study and examination regulations as well as module handbooks).
- The project contributes to the further development of study programs and teaching/learning formats between the RMU, particularly with a view to the above-mentioned funding focus.
- A link to cross-RMU research foci is welcomed.



Funding format 2: Thinking Tomorrow's Teaching Today

Funding measure

Technical University of Darmstadt, Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz promote the planning and development of innovative, **joint RMU collaborations across the universities, institutions and status groups** with one off **material resources of up to 10,000 euros**.

Aim of the call for proposals and current focus

The current call for proposal focuses on funding for:

- cooperative work on promising, sustainable ideas and concepts on RMU-wide collaboration in teaching, both with regard to new RMU joint degree programs and long-term structures (e.g. teaching exports) or for the harmonization of existing programs,
- mutual learning from the individual strengths of the partners in the RMU alliance.

Funding scenario

- Holding one/several workshops/retreats to develop a concept to increase the potential for collaboration in teaching between (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU universities.

Funding terms

- Funding is available for exchange formats involving one or several teachers from at least two of the three RMU; at least one of the teachers. At least one of the teachers must be employed at the university on a permanent basis.
- Participation by representatives from the departments for curriculum development of the universities involved (central administration and/or department administration) as well as the involvement of students from the participating units is also desirable. The aim should be to include a total of four persons per university.
- The exchange format applied for can be both subject-based or interdisciplinary.
- Funding is available for material resources of up to 10,000 euros in one year for conceptualizing and implementing one or more exchange formats.



- There is no need to submit a mandatory report. Instead, a concept must be drawn up in the context of the exchange for which funding is received.

Funding criteria

Decisions on funding are taken based on how and to what extent applications meet the criteria listed below:

- Quality, degree of innovation and potential of the collaboration to be conceptualized in the context of the exchange format for which funding is applied for
 - Plausibility and sustainability of the academic networking that is being funded
 - Added value for and by the RMU through the collaboration to be conceptualized
 - Newly established networks for the purpose of future collaborations will be preferred.
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Procedure:

Applications can be submitted until **7 April 2026** to:

koordination@rhein-main-unis.de

Applications will be accepted from professors and academic staff.

The funding decision is expected by the end of June 2026.

Funded projects can start immediately thereafter. It is strongly recommended that applications be coordinated in advance with the central administration units of the respective universities that support learning and teaching.

The selection decision will be taken by the Vice Presidents for Study and Teaching of the three universities. If necessary, the selection committee can obtain additional expertise (expert opinions, assessment from the perspective of higher education didactics).

Submitting an application:

- Completed form, including a project outline (5 pages max.), which also shows how the objectives of the RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching are achieved and the funding criteria are met.
- **In the case of funding applications for degree programs and modules and for funding format 2:** Supporting, signed statement from the dean or deputy dean of studies or vice dean of the participating university departments.



- This signature is not required **for applications for funding of collaboration at course level.**
- **When establishing new modules or study programs:** differentiation from existing modules or study programs, description of the complementary added value and a declaration that sufficient human resources and material resources are available for the implementation and long-term execution of the new study program or module, including for administration.
- Information on the number of students who can attend such a module in the academic year and take the corresponding examinations. **For new study programs**, the number of first-year students per year must be stated.
- **In the case of structural anchoring of existing modules:** justification of the selection, presentation of the complementary added value, information on the number of students who can attend the module in question at one of the partner RMU in the academic year and take the corresponding examinations.
- **In the case of collaboration at course level:** reasons for course selection, number of students in the individual courses.
- **In the case of funding applications for funding format 2:** Names of the persons involved in the exchange format applied for who are not part of the group of teachers.
- The following minimum information **must in any case** be included in the application:
 - How many students is the project aimed at?
 - Budget calculation (list of cost items for the application period per year and broken down by university)
 - Information on whether the project applied for has been or will be submitted elsewhere
 - Signed statement of consent of the teaching staff involved in the application.

Further information

www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de