

Call for Proposals

Funding to Promote Collaboration in Studies and Teaching at the Rhine-Main Universities

RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching

Darmstadt / Frankfurt a. M./Mainz, December 2022

Funding measure: RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching

The Technical University of Darmstadt, Goethe University Frankfurt and Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz support jointly conceived and sustainable collaboration projects in teaching involving teachers from at least two of the three Rhine-Main Universities (RMU) with human and/or material resources amounting to a maximum of EUR 40,000 for a maximum period of one year.

Funding is open to all subjects and topics and aimed at both presence-based, hybrid and purely digital formats.

Objectives of the call for proposals and current priorities

Through the **RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching**, the Rhine-Main Universities support collaboration to promote the **development of new, attractive study programmes**, the **collaborative further development of existing curricular offerings** and the **joint testing of innovative teaching/learning formats**.

The current call for proposals focuses on the following aspects:

- The development of specific RMU study programmes (in module form) that are jointly developed by (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU. Binding mutual recognition must be agreed for these curricular modules. The development of study components/modules ranges from elective modules (for instance, interdisciplinary collaboration) to mandatory elective modules.
- Agreements on binding mutual recognition of existing modules between (at least) two locations.
- The design of digital modules or blended learning formats that can be jointly developed, put into practice and recognised at two or three locations.

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Funding formats and modalities:

- 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 focus on a new, subject-related and didactic concept (for instance, co-/team teaching, interdisciplinary study subjects) or on further development.

Funding is available for human and material resources for the concept design and/or implementation of collaboration amounting to a total of EUR 40,000 for a maximum period of one year (for instance, positions for staff, assistants, material resources).

Funding criteria:

The funding decision is determined by how and the extent to which applications meet the criteria listed below:

- The project recognisably expands the teaching/learning offered by the participating RMU and leverages the potential that results from collaboration in studies and teaching between the RMU.
- The project makes use of the high degree of complementarity between the participating universities and combines complementary subject and/or methodological expertise in a convincing manner.
- 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 programmes and teaching/learning formats between the RMU, particularly with a view to the above-mentioned funding priorities. A reference to cross-RMU research priorities is welcomed.

Procedure:

- Applications can be submitted by **15 March 2023** to

koordination@rhein-main-unis.de

Applications will be accepted from professors and academic staff. The funding decision is expected by 1 June 2023. 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 studies and teaching. The selection decision is made by the RMU steering committee; the vice-presidents of the three universities responsible for studies and teaching will prepare the decision in a joint recommendation. If necessary, the selection committee can seek additional expertise (expert opinion, evaluation of higher education didactics, etc.).

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 met.
- Endorsement by the dean and dean of studies of the participating university departments.
- When setting up new modules: Distinction from existing modules, presentation of the complementary added value as well as a declaration that sufficient human and material resources are available for the implementation and permanent execution of the new module. Indication of the number of students who can attend such a module during the academic year and sit the corresponding examinations.
- With mutual recognition of existing modules: Distinction from existing modules, presentation of the complementary added value as well as a declaration that sufficient human and material resources are available for the implementation and permanent execution of the new module. Indication of the number of students who can attend the relevant module offered by a partner RMU university during the academic year and sit the corresponding examinations.
- The following minimum information must be included in the application:

- How many students is the project aimed at?
- Financial 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.

For further information:

www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de