

Call for proposals

## Funding to promote collaboration in learning and teaching at the Rhine-Main Universities

### RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching

**Darmstadt / Frankfurt am Main / Mainz, December 2023**

#### 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 resources and/or material resources amounting to up to EUR 40,000 for a maximum period of one year.

#### Objectives of the call for proposals and current focus

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

Against the background of the excellence strategy, the current call for proposals focuses on **research-oriented teaching/learning settings**. In particular, **project-based or problem-based teaching/learning formats** are to be used.

#### Funding Formats:

- 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. Modules or courses can also be designed in digital form or as a blended learning format.
- Development of specific **RMU modules** that are developed jointly by (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU. These modules must be anchored in the curriculum and a corresponding collaboration agreement must be concluded. The RMU modules can be designed both as face-to-face courses and as digital modules or blended learning formats.

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- **Structural anchoring of existing modules** between (at least) two of the RMU. The modules are intended to be integrated into the corresponding examination regulations, a collaboration agreement must be concluded.
- **Collaboration at course level** at (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMU. Here, it is not the aim to design fundamentally new joint courses, as cooperation will take place within the framework of existing courses. However, jointly planned phases of digital cooperation must be integrated into such existing courses. During these phases, students from the participating universities work collaboratively on assignments and present the results in joint digital sessions. Face-to-face meetings are also an option. Any potential coursework and examinations are completed in accordance with the examination regulations 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 40,000 for a maximum period of one year is available for human resources and material resources for designing the concept 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:

- The project recognizably expands the teaching/learning offers at the participating RMU and leverages the potential that results from collaboration in learning and teaching between the RMU.
- 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 reference to cross-RMU research foci is welcomed.

Applications can be submitted by **25 March 2024** to

[koordination@rhein-main-unis.de](mailto:koordination@rhein-main-unis.de)

Applications will be accepted from professors and academic staff. The funding decision is expected to be made in June 2024. 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 is made by the RMU-Directorate; the vice-presidents of the three universities responsible for learning 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 are met.
- Supporting, signed statement from the dean or deputy dean of studies or vice dean of the participating university departments for funding applications for courses and modules. This signature is not required for applications for funding for 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.
- The following minimum information must 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.

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For further information:

[www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de](http://www.rhein-main-universitaeten.de)