

Call for proposals

# Funding for the Promotion of Cooperation in Teaching and Learning at the Rhine- Main Universities

## RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching

**Darmstadt / Frankfurt a. M. / Mainz, December 2021**

### Funding measure "RMU Initiative Funding for Teaching"

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

The funding is open to all subjects and topics and is aimed at both present, 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 cooperations 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**.

The current call for proposals focuses on the following areas:

- The conceptual design of digital modules or blended learning formats that can be developed, used and recognised jointly at 2 or 3 locations. The development of RMU-specific study programmes, in module form) that are jointly developed by (at least) two departments at (at least) two of the RMUs. Binding mutual recognition must be agreed upon for these curricular elective modules.
- The design of digital modules or blended learning formats that can be jointly developed, used, and recognized at two or three universities.
- The conception and planning of joint degree programs (explicitly including RMU-wide research foci).

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### Funding formats and modalities:

- Applications may be submitted for projects involving teachers from at least two of the three RMUs; at least one of the teachers must be employed on a permanent basis at the university.
- The cooperation projects can be located at the level of study programs, individual modules or at the level of courses. The focus can be on a new scientific or didactic concept (e.g. co-/team teaching, interdisciplinary study projects) or on further development.

Funding is available for personnel and material resources for the conception and/or implementation of a cooperation in the amount of max. 40,000 euros for the duration of max. one year (e.g. positions for employees, auxiliary staff, material resources).

### Funding criteria:

The extent to which and the manner in which applications meet the criteria listed below are decisive for the funding decision:

- The project recognizably expands the teaching/learning offerings of the participating RMUs and utilizes potentials that result from a cooperation of the RMUs in the area of study and teaching.
- The project takes advantage of the high degree of complementarity of 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 responsible institution (e.g. planned anchoring in study and examination regulations as well as module handbooks).
- The project contributes to the further development of study programs or teaching/learning formats between the RMUs, especially in the sense of the above-mentioned funding priorities. A reference to cross-RMU research priorities is welcomed.

### Procedure:

- Applications can be submitted until **March 15, 2022** to

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

Professors and academic staff are eligible to apply. The funding decision is expected by June 1, 2022. 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 teaching and learning. The selection decision is made in the RMU steering committee; the vice presidents of the three universities responsible for studies and teaching prepare the decision by means of a joint recommendation. If necessary, the selection committee may seek additional expertise (expert opinion, evaluation of higher education didactics, etc.).

### Submitting an application:

- Completed form including project outline (max. 5 pages), which also shows how the objectives of the RMU Innovative Funding for Teaching will be achieved and the funding criteria fulfilled.
- Supporting statement by the dean and the dean of studies of the participating departments of the universities.
- For the establishment of new study programs: Distinction from existing study programs, presentation of the complementary added value as well as a declaration that sufficient personnel and material resources are available for the implementation and permanent execution of the new study program.
- In any case, the following 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 differentiated by university).
  - Information on whether the project applied for has been or will be submitted elsewhere.
- Signed consent of the teachers involved in the application.

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Further information:

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

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Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz  
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