



UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD

Quality Fund for Teaching

Call for Proposals 2026

- (1) **Open Call for Proposals**
- (2) **Thematic focus:**
Internationalisation of Teaching

Submission Deadline

4th October 2026

lehrfoerderung@uni-
bielefeld.de

Innovation for high-quality teaching

Since 2017, Bielefeld University has been promoting ideas and examples of good practice in the field of study and teaching through its Quality Fund for Teaching. In particular, the fund is intended to support the piloting of smaller-scale innovations.

In this year's funding round, there are two options for applying for funding for teaching-related innovations:

(1) Quality Fund for Teaching – Open Call for Proposals

The Quality Fund can support a wide variety of teaching innovations that contribute to improving teaching. Specifically, this may include formats that are to be piloted for the first time. Individual projects can receive funding of up to €5,000 over the course of one semester, or up to €10,000 for two semesters.

(2) Thematic focus: Internationalisation of Teaching

The aim of this funding line is to develop and implement new international, digitally supported teaching and learning scenarios and concepts as virtual formats within existing courses, or to further develop existing partnerships from a didactic perspective. Accordingly, support may be provided for both established collaborations and new initiatives. In particular, this is intended to facilitate the piloting of smaller-scale innovations at the course level. Mobility activities for students and teaching staff are not eligible for funding. Bielefeld University is part of the European University Alliance NEOLAiA. Projects within the framework of this alliance are expressly welcome. However, the call for proposals is open to all eligible projects aimed at the internationalisation of teaching through virtually enriched formats. Under this funding line, projects for one semester (in the summer semester 2027 or winter semester 2027/28) are eligible for funding of up to a maximum of €5,000.

Guidance for both call variants

Quality Fund & Quality Fund with thematic focus

Application

Application structure (max. 8000 characters including spaces)

The following aspects are relevant to the application:

- A clear and comprehensible description of the problem / initial situation and the key challenges in the proposed teaching and learning context (What is the focus of the project?)
- A description of the project, its objective and the proposed measures (work plan) for achieving this objective
- How is the subsequent reuse of the content developed as part of the project idea planned?

Formal application criteria

All teaching staff at Bielefeld University (with a teaching load of at least 4 SWS) are eligible to apply. The funding may be used for support staff (student assistants, increases in staff positions) or materials. The purchase of hardware and the funding of catering are excluded.

Concepts or projects that are already receiving funding from national, international or university funds are not eligible for support.

Technical feasibility: Any application for software (or for the development of software) must always be assessed with regard to its compatibility with the university's systems and services, as well as from the perspective of data protection and information security.

In order to highlight good practice within the university and beyond, and to encourage exchange amongst teaching staff, the funding includes participation in an internal university event to present the project, as well as a presentation of the project on the website. Furthermore, the materials produced within the projects should, wherever possible, be licensed as OER (Open Educational Resources) and made available to other teaching staff on an appropriate platform, such as [ORCA.nrw](https://www.orca.nrw.de/)

Assessment criteria

The following assessment criteria will be applied:

- Didactic innovation of the teaching and learning scenarios/concepts within the project's own subject context
- Clarity, coherence, and alignment with the current discourse in higher education pedagogy (*The project builds on current developments, findings and discussions in the field of higher education pedagogy. The planned measures draw on contemporary didactic approaches.*)
- Ideally, the project includes aspects of student collaboration both within and beyond courses
- Sustainability of the project in terms of the reuse of the developed content and its potential for longer-term implementation
- Involvement of the relevant central support structures at the university

Submission

As part of the application process, it is **strongly recommended** that you seek **prior** advice from Dr. Gabriele Steuer (lehrforderderung@uni-bielefeld.de, extension: -88068) or, for the internationalisation focus area, from Johanna Springhorn (international-lehren@uni-bielefeld.de, extension: -86788) at the Centre for Teaching and Learning. We would be happy to assist you in developing your ideas during this consultation.

Early contact is particularly advisable if

- a new international teaching format is to be developed,
- a project is being planned as part of NEOLAiA and no partnership has yet been finalised,
- a format requiring a particular degree of coordination is envisaged.

In addition to the actual application text, you will need the following for submission:

- a meaningful title with an abstract (max. 800 characters, incl. spaces) and relevant literature
- the name of the person responsible for implementation, and, where applicable, of any additional participants
- the contact email address of the Dean's Office (to which notification of the application's receipt will be forwarded)
- a funding plan (using the template provided on the website)

Please submit your application via the form provided on the website no later than 4 October 2026.

A decision on the allocation of funds will be made by the Rectorate, on the basis of recommendations from a review panel and the University Commission for Studies and Teaching, by the end of December 2026, as currently expected.

An overview of projects that have already received funding can be found at: <https://www.uni-bielefeld.de/einrichtungen/zll/hdle/qualitaetsfonds/foerderung/>

Additional guidance for the thematic focus

Internationalisation of Teaching

Assessment criteria for the thematic focus on the internationalisation of teaching

The following additional assessment criteria will be applied for this thematic focus:

- Plausibility and didactic quality of the international integration
- Quality of the design of virtual teaching and learning scenarios
(In particular, interaction, collaboration, the use of digital tools, and the interplay of synchronous and asynchronous formats should be aligned with the learning objectives.)
- Added value for the development of students' competences in an international context
(The project promotes, in a comprehensible manner, disciplinary, intercultural, linguistic, digital and/or collaborative competences and enables students to gain low-threshold international learning experiences.)
- Feasibility of international cooperation or the initiation of such cooperation

Possible focus and formats of eligible teaching projects:

In particular, funding is intended for teaching projects that

- contribute to the further development of innovative teaching and learning formats in the sense of future-oriented higher education teaching, as well as to the initiation and prototypical piloting of international teaching collaborations,
- strengthen students' intercultural, linguistic, digital and collaborative competences, whilst integrating international and global perspectives into disciplinary teaching contexts (e.g. international group or project work, peer feedback with students),
- enable low-threshold international learning experiences for students by establishing or further developing international virtual teaching collaborations (e.g. integrated as a co-teaching into an existing course as part of a COIL project/Collaborative Online International Learning),

Examples of formats within the European university alliance NEOLAIa can be found in the ongoing call „Teaching internationally“ and in the call for the NEOLAIa programme „NEOTeAch“. Mobility activities for students and teaching staff are not eligible for funding.