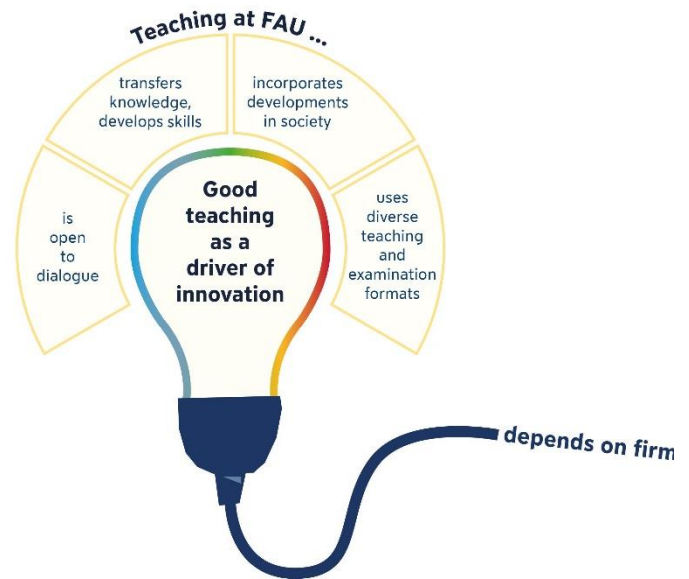


Call for applications Innovation Fund for Teaching

The **Innovation Fund for Teaching** provides support for special measures and innovative activities in teaching and studying. A total of €185,000 euros is available for all subjects and degree programs in 2024.



Aim of the fund

The Innovation Fund for Teaching is an internal FAU funding program aimed at improving the quality of teaching. Awarding funding on a competitive basis is intended to act as an incentive to try out innovative teaching methods, with financial backing being provided for a period of up to one year for the purpose of refining and evaluating the new approach.

Availability of funding

Funding is available for teaching projects with a potential for innovation, based on the general principles set out in the Guidelines for Innovative Teaching at FAU (see below, "Focus in 2024"). Funding is available for projects that are breaking new ground in one or more of the following areas

- Concepts for university-level teaching
- New interdisciplinary collaboration concerning content
- Educational purpose and learning outcome of teaching unit
- New teaching formats.

Focus in 2024

With the "Guidelines for Innovative Teaching", FAU emphasizes that teaching is on an equal footing with research and the central role played by teaching as a driver of innovation at the University. Applications for the Innovation Fund for Teaching therefore ought to refer to the principles stipulated in the Guidelines:

1. [Teaching at FAU transfers knowledge, develops skills and inspires.](#)
2. [Teaching at FAU incorporates developments in society.](#)
3. [Teaching at FAU uses a wide variety of teaching and examination formats.](#)
4. [Teaching at FAU is open to society and dialog.](#)

This year's call for applications focuses predominantly on projects developing innovative ideas for internationalization in teaching or for incorporating AI technologies.

Criteria for funding

Funding is available for projects that make a contribution towards the implementation of one or several of the principles set forth in the "Guidelines for Innovative Teaching". In 2024, we will focus predominantly on projects developing innovative ideas for internationalization in teaching or for incorporating AI technologies. However, this does not mean that only projects focusing on either of these two aspects will be eligible for funding. As long as your project relates to one of our guidelines, you can file an application.

In the application, you should also state whether your project pursues one or more of the following objectives:

- Curricular development
- Improving study skills for new students
- Supporting students in successfully completing their degree programs
- Improving advice, supervision and general services
- Optimization of existing processes in teaching and studying, improving administrative processes in teaching and improving accessibility of degree programs

Excluded from funding:

- Measures primarily aimed at increasing teaching capacities to cover regular teaching, or approaches aimed exclusively at improving infrastructure, equipment or other framework conditions for teaching.
- Merely continuing previously-funded measures if nothing new has been added to the concept.
- Teaching assignments eligible for other funding options that can be financed using faculty funds.

Eligible applicants

All teaching staff at FAU can apply.

Duration and scope of measures

Funding is usually available for one or a maximum of two semesters. We would hope that concepts that prove successful are continued and integrated into standard teaching in the subject in question.

The maximum amount of funding available is 10,000 euros. The amount of funding applied for must be appropriate, justified and feasible in view of the planned measure.

Funding can be provided for staff to ease the burden on research associates for a defined period in order to allow the concept to be implemented. This funding may be used, for example, to employ assistants to help with correcting work, to provide extra hours to colleagues to cover teaching duties or to pay for general assistants. Equipment is only eligible for funding if there is a good reason for it, if it is crucial for the project and if it is not already covered by the initial budget for basic requirements.

Application procedure

Application deadlines: Applications (max. 4 pages) must be sent in electronic form to Franziska Kreuzer, coordinator in the President's staff, by **May 3, 2024**.

Scope and content: The applicant should describe the planned teaching concept on max. 4 pages, explicitly taking the following points into consideration:

- Brief description (max. 1000 characters with spaces)
- Description of the situation as it stands at present and an outline of requirements
- Description of the project idea and the objectives in reference to the Guidelines for Innovative Teaching and this year's focus
- Statement of criteria for success/evaluation
- Details and quantification of target group
- Long-term concept
- Timeline and financing plan, setting out reasons for requirements.
- If the applicant is not the Chair: consent from the person in charge of teaching¹

Selection procedure and selection criteria

The applications are submitted centrally and are subject to a two-tiered evaluation process: In the first stage, the Deans of Studies evaluate the applications from their own faculty according to previously determined, common criteria and recommend the order in which they believe the applications should be considered. These prioritized lists are then forwarded to the Vice President Education who takes the final decision after consulting students' representatives. The results are announced during the final meeting of the Deans of Studies in July, and the applicants informed accordingly.

The following **selection criteria** apply:

- Convincing outline of how the project meets and fulfills at least one or preferably several of the above-mentioned principles and objectives of the Innovation Fund.
- Requirements and feasibility of measures
- Innovative nature, new types of teaching, added value, particularly for students
- Integration into existing structures, synergy effects
- Incorporation into curriculum
- No other funding possible
- Appropriateness of funding applied for and realistic timescale (feasibility)
- Possibility to become anchored in regular teaching (long-term benefits)
- Possibly transferable to other subjects (or groups of subjects)

¹A sentence along these lines is sufficient: 'The planned teaching project has been approved by my supervisor (name, title)'.

Reporting

- After the funding period has ended, a short project report must be submitted (2-3 pages in length, case report and financial section). This report should cover how the project went, a comparison of the situation before and after the project, any problems that arose, how well the new idea was received (with reference to the criteria for success from the application) and how funds were used. Two forms are provided for this purpose together with the confirmation of funding. Funds that are not spent are withdrawn after the end of the project and re-assigned to the budget for the Innovation Fund for Teaching.
- In addition, you may be asked to present the project in an FAU event (Commission for Teaching and Studying (LuSt) or Tag der Lehre).

Contact

If you have any questions on the call for applications or the application procedure, and to submit the application, please contact:

Franziska Kreuzer, coordinator in the President's staff, franziska.k.kreuzer@fau.de, + 49 9131/85-71310