

Call for applications Innovation fund for teaching for central institutions 2025



The **Innovation Fund for Teaching** provides support for special measures and innovative activities in teaching and studying. For the year 2025, funding of up to €30,000 is available for central institutions.

Objective 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. The goal is to enhance student success at FAU.

Availability of funding

The fund supports projects that develop or further develop teaching formats that contribute to the restructuring of FAU's teaching and thereby sustainably enhance student success.

Student success is defined according to FAU's [concept of student success](#) and is achieved when a student leaving FAU meets all of the following criteria:

1. Acquisition of subject-specific skills and competencies during their studies
2. Personal development (into critical, responsible individuals who can apply skills and knowledge independently, responsibly, and for the benefit of society)
3. Completion of a university degree within the standard period of study (with a tolerance of two additional semesters)
4. Achievement of a comparatively good final grade
5. Employability in a position appropriate to their academic education with a relatively short transition period between graduation and employment

Additionally, the [guidelines for Innovative Teaching](#) at FAU serve as a framework for developing new, innovative teaching formats that contribute to increasing student success.

Projects are eligible for funding if they present a concrete plan outlining how student success will be improved based on the criteria mentioned above. In particular, projects that explore new approaches—individually or in combination—are especially encouraged, including:

- Didactic concepts
- Novel interdisciplinary collaboration benefiting content development
- The educational mission and objectives of the course
- Enhancement of advisory, mentoring, and service offerings
- Optimization of existing study and teaching processes
- Improved study feasibility
- New teaching formats

Criteria for funding

Projects eligible for funding must identify deficiencies in the implementation of the concept of student success and convincingly demonstrate how the newly designed measures will contribute to improving student success.

The following criteria are decisive:

- Preference will be given to projects that support degree completion within the standard period of study.
- Projects aimed at teaching AI competencies will also be prioritized.
- The developed measures should benefit as many students as possible.
- Projects that involve students in the development of measures will receive preferential funding. Engaging in dialogue with external experts is encouraged during the development process.
- The measures should increase student satisfaction.

Eligible applicants

All staff of FAU's central institutions for teaching can apply. The application must confirm that the project has been coordinated with the responsible persons of the respective institution.

Duration and scope of measures

The requested funds must be spent within one year, starting from October 1, 2025. The funds must be claimed no later than November 30, 2025. Preference will be given to projects that can be sustainably integrated into the institution's offerings.

A maximum funding amount of €10,000 per project can be granted. The requested funds must be reasonable, justified, and clearly linked to the planned measure.

Eligible funding includes personnel costs aimed at relieving academic staff for a defined period to implement the proposed concept. This may include: hiring grading assistants, increasing the working hours of colleagues to cover teaching duties, and student assistants.

Material expenses are only eligible for funding if they are essential to the project, justified in terms of content, and not part of the institution's basic equipment.

Application procedure

Application deadlines: Applications (max. 4 pages) must be sent in electronic form to Franziska Kreuzer by **May 30, 2025**.

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 responsible at their institution: consent from the person in charge.

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:

- Requirements and feasibility of measures
- Actual and foreseeable impacts of the project on student success
- Integration into existing structures, synergy effects
- Incorporation into curriculum and transfer opportunities
- Appropriateness of funding applied for and realistic timescale (feasibility)
- Possibility to become anchored in regular teaching (long-term benefits)

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 zuv-foerderprogramme-lehre@fau.de.