



Call for Proposals for Blended Learning Activities: Unlock New Opportunities with FAU4Europe

Objectives of FAU4Europe

You are interested in exploring blended learning offers with an international perspective? But you don't have the time and resources to design something from scratch? EELISA at FAU is offering initial funding/seed funding to establish international blended learning offers together with one of our EELISA partner universities. With this EELISA seed funding a first pilot blended learning activity should be conceptualized, planned and conducted once.

In the long run, this call aims to facilitate the creation of learning opportunities at FAU that can be transferred into <u>Blended Intensive Programs (BIPs)</u> in the following years. This would open the opportunity to apply for yearly Erasmus+ BIP funds, potentially allowing the program to be repeated.

Overall, this call will contribute to the internationalization of education at FAU and provide additional mobility opportunities for FAU students. This call is funded by Erasmus+ EELISA budget.

Why blended learning offers?

- <u>Hybrid learning format</u>: combines virtual and physical mobility, enabling students and staff to collaborate across borders
- <u>International & interdisciplinary collaboration</u>: encouraging joint teaching and learning experiences with partner universities across Europe
- <u>Innovation in teaching & learning</u>: Utilizes digital tools and pedagogies to enhance engagement and accessibility (such as project / challenge-based learning approaches).
- <u>Flexibility & inclusivity</u>: more accessible than traditional mobility programs, especially for students who might not be able to study abroad full-time.
- <u>Strengthening European networks:</u> encouraging collaboration between higher education institutions and support the internationalization strategies of universities.







Eligibility

The call is **open to all lecturers at FAU** – no matter if early career or full professor – who wish to design a new education offer (blended learning activity) for students (Bachelor/ Master) with at least one EELISA partner institution (i. e., <u>UPM</u> in Madrid, <u>PSL</u> in Paris, <u>ENPC</u> in Paris, <u>ZHAW</u> in Zurich, <u>SNS</u> in Pisa, <u>SSSA</u> in Pisa, <u>BME</u> in Budapest, <u>UPB</u> in Bucharest, and ITU in Istanbul). <u>The EELISA Team at FAU</u> is happy to support in finding suitable partners.

Mandatory Criteria:

- collaboration with at **least one EELISA partner and at least one additional partner from your network** (in total it is recommended to have a group of four institutions, as this will be a prerequisite for the future BIP).
- courses are taught in English.
- and are in a blended learning format (having a virtual component and a short, inperson group mobility (of up to five days).
- include digital/innovative teaching methods.
- students should obtain at least 3 ECTS credits and <u>EELISA Credentials</u> (EELISA Team at FAU will support on this).

Budget and eligible costs for the design, planning and implementation of a first pilot project of the activity

You can apply for up to 10.000€.

- The funding provided for FAU personnel costs, is to relieve scientific staff for a defined
 period to implement the proposed concept, such as the hiring of correction assistants
 or the increase of positions of colleagues to represent courses as well as support staff
 including student assistants.
- If the onsite event is organized at FAU, the budget can be used for workshop materials and catering. The "Bewirtungsrichtlinie" applies (see https://www.intern.fau.de/haushalt-und-finanzen/haushaltswesen/haushaltsrecht/).

Once your project has been selected, 80 % of the budget will be paid on demand, 20 % of the budget will be paid after the organizer has submitted a BIP draft to FAU's Central Office for International Affairs.

The travel and accommodation costs of organizers and participants (in case the activity is taking place at one of the partner universities) are not included in the call budget. However,







FAU lecturers and <u>students</u> can ask for additional travel and accommodation support at the EELISA Team at FAU, if the mobility takes place at one of the EELISA partner Universities. Travel costs from participants of other EELISA institutions should be paid by the EELISA partners' local EELISA offices.

Application procedure and deadline

Applicants should send the **completed application form** (which can be downloaded here:) in one PDF file via email to **eelisa@fau.de**.

The call is open from May 1st to June 13th 2025.

The blended learning activity has to be **conducted between October 1**st, **2025 and September 30, 2026**.

Evaluation criteria

Proposals that meet the following criteria will be given preference in the selection process:

- Novelty of the program (25%).
- Contribution to the SDGs: Programs that address sustainability challenges and contribute to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs will be prioritized (25%)
- Long-term Viability: A clear and reasonable plan for continuing the program as an official BIP beyond the initial funding period (25%).
- Innovative teaching methods & student engagement concept: Integration of interactive, digital, or technology-enhanced teaching approaches to enrich learning experiences and engage students (25%).

Proposals will be evaluated by a <u>member of the EELISA Team at FAU</u>, the EELISA Academic and Scientific Representative (<u>Prof. Gabriele Chiogna</u>), a representative from the FAU <u>Competence Center Education</u>, and a member of the Central Office for International Affairs (<u>Bianca Köndgen</u>) and one FAU student representative.

Timeline for successful blended learning activity proposals:

- **End of June:** Applicants will be informed within four weeks after the application deadline whether their proposal has been accepted or not.
- July (Date to be defined): A kick-off meeting for successful applicants will be initiated by FAU EELISA staff together with the FAU Competence Center Education and the FAU Central Office for International Affairs.
 - Presentation of concepts and joint feedback.







- Input session by the FAU Competence Center Education about blended learning/ innovative teaching.
- Input session by the FAU Central Office for International Affairs about formal requirements of BIPs and BIP process at FAU.
- Additionally for the creation of a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP): Mid of
 December 2025: Finalizing the concept to submit a proposal to FAU Central Office for
 International Affairs for a formal BIP (via Erasmus+) and subsequently for more
 additional funding for long-term sustainability of the blended learning activity.
 - May 2026: The results of BIP application will be announced by FAU Central Office for International Affairs, potential second edition of Blended Learning Activity in the academic year 26/27
- Academic Year 2025/2026: Organizing and conducting a first pilot of your Blended Learning Activity (with Call Budget and internal EELISA FAU mobility fund).
- October 2026: Final meeting for presenting results and sharing Lessons Learned

Additional support from the FAU Competence Center Education and the Central Office for International Affairs during the process will be offered on demand.

Examples for programs

- Excursions in connection with digital seminars/lectures in advance.
- Practical experience (e.g. in a laboratory) with online theory (before/after). (EELISA has
 a <u>Infrastructure Catalogue</u> where partners offer a shared use of their infrastructure).
- Digital escape room, team playing
- Hackathons & problem-solving Challenges.
- Design thinking workshops: Hands-on prototyping of solutions for real-world challenges.
- Intercultural learning activities: Role-playing exercises to understand diverse perspectives.

If you want to participate in the FAU4Europe Call but don't have a fully developed concept yet, or need help in connecting with other potential EELISA partners, our evaluation team is happy to support you. Please reach out to: eeelisa@fau.de.

