



CALL FOR PROJECTS IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 4EU+ EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ALLIANCE

2024

1. BACKGROUND

On 1 August 2022, the University of Geneva joined the [European University Alliance 4EU+](#), formed by Charles University in Prague, Sorbonne University and the Universities of Paris Panthéon Assas, Copenhagen, Heidelberg, Milan, and Warsaw. All are members or associate members of the LERU and are renowned for their excellence in research. Located at the heart of Europe, UNIGE enjoys a long-standing reputation for academic excellence and a wide network of collaborations with international and non-governmental organisations, making it an asset for the 4EU+ Alliance. Together with other member universities, UNIGE strives to shape the future of higher education while putting its academic expertise at the service of society. 4EU+ has set up a structure, a governance and several working groups that bring together the expertise of each institution. This Alliance is not just a cooperation agreement, but a dynamic structure that is constantly moving forward. Since the creation of the Alliance, the strong commitment of the administrative, management, training and research teams has enabled the development of more than a hundred joint activities and projects in four priority areas ([flagships](#)):

- [Flagship 1](#): Urban health and demographic change
- [Flagship 2](#): European identity, multilingualism, plurality and citizenship
- [Flagship 3](#): Digitisation, modelling, citizenship
- [Flagship 4](#): Environmental Transitions

The 4EU+ Alliance has a vision: to create a comprehensive, research-intensive European university through a new quality of cooperation in teaching, education, research, and administration. All our activities are based on academic freedom and autonomy, guaranteeing a student-centred, equitably accessible, and participatory teaching. To build this unique research-intensive European university, the Alliance is focusing on two main ambitions: encouraging mobility and developing a common framework for education and research by designing flexible learning pathways.

2. OBJECTIVES

This call for projects aims to strengthen collaboration between the members of the 4EU+ Alliance through the implementation of new projects within the framework of the 4 flagships. The flagships are essential hubs for setting up solid cooperation networks between the partner universities and they give a sense of belonging to the Alliance.

3. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects may take the following form (non-exhaustive list): Organisation of a conference or a thematic seminar for students; setting up of joint or complementary teaching: summer or winter schools, Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs), short online/hybrid programmes, double/joint degrees; research projects; creation of innovative joint teaching materials (promoting in particular research-based teaching) etc.



The activities supported must be in line with the 4EU+ mission statement and must have a thematic link with one of the 4EU+ flagships. It can be an existing cooperation within 4EU+ or a new cooperation. In addition to the UNIGE principal investigator, at least two of the seven potential 4EU+ partners must be involved in the planned project. Applicants must be members of the UNIGE's teaching and research staff. The maximum duration of a project is 24 months.

4. FUNDING

The seed funding has an annual budget of CHF 160,000. Grants will be awarded up to a maximum of CHF 40,000 per project for a duration of 12 to 24 months. Successful projects can submit [additional funding requests to the Alliance](#). 4EU+ member universities may, but are not obliged to, supplement UNIGE funding. Applications with additional funds will be given priority.

Eligible expenses, according to the rules in force at UNIGE:

- Costs related to the hiring of students / research assistants / associate researchers;
- Communication costs and joint publications;
- Costs for external services (maximum 15% of the funds granted);
- Logistical costs (booking rooms or videoconferencing, supplies, printing, etc.);
- Subsistence costs (accommodation and meals);
- Visa application fees;
- Ground transport costs (local and abroad);
- Economy-class air travel for journeys >4 hours by train;
- Reception costs for coffee breaks and working lunches.

Non-eligible expenses:

- Office equipment costs (computers, printers...);
- Registration fees for a seminar or conference except to present the results of the 4EU+ project;
- Telephone, internet, etc. costs;
- Costs of issuing passports, vaccinations, medicines, etc.;
- Other expenses not included in the list of eligible expenses.

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Proposals will be evaluated by a committee made up of representatives of the faculties and members of the Rectorate. Particular attention will be paid to the following criteria:

- Sustainability and viability of the project beyond the funding period and prospects for external funding (leverage effect);
- Pedagogical innovation;
- Potential for dissemination and development of new networks within 4EU+;
- Adequacy between planned activities and requested budget;
- Coherent and clearly formulated activity plan;
- Scientific relevance of the project;
- Originality and promotion of interdisciplinarity.

6. TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING PROJECTS



- Call for projects launched: 10 January 2024
- Call for projects' deadline: 1 March 2024
- Publication of results: end of March 2024
- Start of projects: April 2024
- End of projects: maximum end of March 2026.

7. PROJECT SUBMISSION AND REPORTING PROCEDURES

Applications must be submitted by email to fiona.thonier@unige.ch.

The application must include:

- A 500-word abstract. Please specify which institutions (contact persons) will be involved in the project.
- A budget in Excel format.
- A description of the main activities and expected results (max. 200 words).
- Is this a new collaboration or the continuation of an existing one? Please explain briefly (max. 150 words).
- Please illustrate the potential follow-up activities and further collaborations that could result from this project (max. 150 words).
- What other sources of funding are possible, in parallel or later (max. 150 words)?
- Possibility of including other documents such as CVs or letters of support.

The complete application, in French or English, must be submitted by 1 March 2024 at the latest.

Successful applicants undertake to comply with the following points in connection with the projects supported:

- Principal investigators are required to prepare a short project report at the end of the funding period, which will highlight the impact of the project, whether in terms of intellectual output, student involvement or future grant applications.
- The project representatives will inform the International Relations and Partnerships Office of the collaboration, its progress and its results;
- In any publication or presentation resulting directly from the project, the beneficiaries will mention the support granted by 4EU+ and display the Alliance's logo;
- 4EU+ members may refer to the projects supported as part of their partnership (website, communication documents, etc.).