

Digital Learning – 2018 Call for Applications

The 2018 call for applications for the Digital Learning initiative aims to provide extra support to WU courses, modules, and programs that encourage students to engage in an active learning process through the use of digital media. The development of such student-centered teaching and learning concepts is intended to help students acquire in-depth knowledge and key transversal skills. The goal is to develop and explore media-based didactic approaches that take into account the teaching and learning cultures of the respective subjects and offer potential for the development of subject-specific teaching strategies.

2018 call for applications

Applicants

The following WU faculty members are eligible to apply:

- Module coordinators or academic directors who would like to implement a project at their respective institute or wish to provide support to several different courses
- All faculty members who are teaching courses in the year covered by the current call for applications or the 2018 summer semester and/or the 2018/19 winter semester

Selection criteria

Special didactic value – The project should contribute to the overall improvement of teaching quality and studying conditions. The media-oriented didactic concepts should be transferable to other courses and, under appropriate conditions, it should be possible to expand them into a subject-specific, media-based teaching strategy. The required resources must be proportionate to the objective the project aims to achieve.

Long-term viability – The project should generate benefits beyond the funding period. The goal is to integrate the project into WU's regular teaching activities without the need for permanent funding. It is possible to reapply for funding under one or more of the following conditions:



- Based on the experience from previous project funding periods, it seems warranted and useful to expand the project
- Further steps can be taken to improve the project's long-term viability
- It is possible to increase the project's transferability potential

Teaching technologies – To be eligible for support, projects must employ digital media and modern teaching and learning technologies, for instance by making use of Learn@WU (clickers, wikis, learning modules) and classroom technologies (lecturecasts, smartboards). Funding may also be awarded to technologies that are not currently available as part of WU's centrally organized services. In such cases, however, consultations must first be held to determine whether it would be feasible to implement the technology in question.

Innovation – The project should have the potential to stimulate the development of teaching in the respective discipline by using digital media and new media-oriented didactical approaches.

Funding priorities

Funding is provided to projects that correspond to WU's strategic priorities in the field of technology-supported teaching.

- **Inverted classroom** – In this area, the focus is on media-oriented didactical concepts for classroom sessions implemented in such a way that they stimulate student interaction and encourage more in-depth learning. Another priority are ways of interlinking the content of independent online learning activities and the content of the classroom sessions. For more information on the inverted classroom concept, please see [our website](#).
- **Independent study online** – Students should acquire the skill of familiarizing themselves with the knowledge to be imparted through independent study. For teachers, this implies e.g. providing well-structured digital learning content on Learn@WU, stimulating student cooperation, and providing appropriate support and feedback formats. Another priority is the didactically well-founded use of multimedia content such as videos or simulations to ensure a well-targeted and varied learning experience. For more information on the use of videos, please see [our website](#).
- **Stimulating active student involvement:** This refers the use of teaching and learning technologies intended to stimulate active student participation inside and



outside the classroom. One way of achieving this goal in large-scale courses, for instance, is to quiz the students about their knowledge (e.g. by using clickers). In courses with lower student numbers, the smartboard offers a wide range of possibilities for stimulating active student involvement. To design online activities, teachers can use all of the tools available on Learn@WU as well as technologies that are not currently available as part of WU's centrally organized services (e.g. learning apps such as [kahoot](#) or [sli.do](#)).

Types of funding awarded

As part of the project selection process, the individual projects will be assessed to determine whether they are eligible for funding in the form of the following types of extra personnel: eAssistants or eDevelopers. These staff categories differ with regard to the required qualifications and the extent of the employment. The actual extent of employment may vary depending on the project in question.

Profile: eDevelopers

The primary responsibility of eDevelopers is to independently develop and implement concepts for technology-supported teaching in the respective subject. For this reason, an education in the respective subject area is required.

Qualifications – A completed master's or diploma degree, academic skills, and experience in the field of eLearning.

Further information

- This staff category is classified analogously to teaching and research associates (academic staff, tier 1), with a maximum extent of employment of 30 hours/week and a maximum gross monthly salary of € 2,048.25* (for 30 h/week).
- eDevelopers are employed under a fixed-term employment contract after completion of the position announcement process.
- Participation in kick-off and coffee@learn events is mandatory for eLearning staff.

Profile: eAssistants

eAssistants are hired to provide support in the process of designing and implementing measures for technology-supported teaching in the respective subject.



Qualifications – WU students with a bachelor's degree and academic skills in the respective subject area.

Further information

- This staff category is classified analogously to teaching and research assistants, with a maximum extent of employment of 20 hours/week and a maximum gross monthly salary of € 978.00* (for 20 h/week).
- eAssistants are employed under a fixed-term employment contract after completion of the position announcement process.
- Participation in kick-off and coffee@learn events is mandatory for eLearning staff.

Please note: Holders of a completed a diploma or master's degree CANNOT be hired as eAssistants.

Project consulting services

The Teaching & Learning Services is available to support eLearning staff in implementing their projects by providing personalized advisory services, training sessions, and events to share new ideas and approaches for the use of new media and technologies in teaching.

*Stand 2017



Application and selection procedure

1. Instructors, academic directors, and module coordinators can submit applications by using the application form.
2. The application period ends on September 15, 2017. Please email your application (in PDF format) to teaching-and-learning@wu.ac.at
3. Once the content of all applications has been evaluated, notifications will be sent out by the middle of October 2017 to inform applicants about whether or not special funding will be awarded to their respective projects. A project agreement has to be concluded for projects that have been selected for funding. The funding period starts on January 1, 2018, at the earliest.

Further information and advice during the application process

If you have any questions or need more information, you can contact the teaching & learning services.

You can also send your draft application to the Teaching & Learning Services team in advance to receive feedback on the formal aspects of your application. If you would like to use this service, please send your completed application form to teaching-and-learning@wu.ac.at by August 18, 2017. Please send only the application form, with your questions included as comments in the PDF file.

Please note that the selection decisions will be made by the Steering Committee.

