

## **Call for Applications for the 2022<sup>1</sup> Innovative Teaching Award**

The 2022 Innovative Teaching Award focuses on course designs that facilitate international teaching and learning in innovative ways. Outstanding course concepts that establish an international classroom, promote internationalisation@home and strengthen transferable skills with an emphasis on international and intercultural competences will be awarded.

### **1 Objectives**

The goal of the Innovative Teaching Award is to reward instructors who use innovative teaching methods at WU.

Every year, the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs and a group of reviewers (a full professor, a member of the junior faculty, a representative of the Vice-Rector for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, an expert on the didactics of higher education, and a student nominated by the ÖH Austrian Students' Union) compile a list of no more than ten courses selected for the Innovative Teaching Award. This list is then presented to the Rector's Council.

The award aims to:

- Honor the continuing efforts, dedication, and commitment of teaching staff members working to improve teaching quality at WU
- Stimulate new ideas and concepts to enhance the didactic quality of courses and lectures at WU
- Increase awareness of innovative and exemplary teaching methods. The winning courses serve as inspiration for other teaching staff members to further develop their teaching methods.

### **2 Focus: International Teaching and Learning**

Most of today's challenges are global in nature. To meet these challenges, the ability to work successfully in international and intercultural contexts is essential. Therefore, it is important to support students in acquiring the relevant skills and abilities and to promote an international mindset. This promotion can take place at various levels.

Course designs, that foster international teaching and learning, integrate global and intercultural dimensions in their teaching and learning environment and create international learning settings and spaces. The internationalization can be implemented through "international classrooms", through

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<sup>1</sup> Courses held during the 2021 calendar year (summer semester 2021, winter semester 2021/22) are eligible for the 2022 Innovative Teaching Award. Courses held over two semesters (WS 2020/21–SS 2021) can also be nominated.

“internationalisation@home” promoted by and in course designs and through imparted transferable skills. For the Innovative Teaching Award it is essential, how the methodical and didactical implementation of one or more aspects takes place, whereby the aspects merge into one another:

### International Classrooms:

Award-worthy course designs under the aspect “international classrooms” apply innovative didactical methods, that contribute to successful teaching and learning in international courses. For example, teaching designs can specifically address students with diverse cultural backgrounds, create intercultural and international spaces for interaction and implement collaborative learning in heterogeneous groups. The teaching approaches promote the appreciation of diverse cultural backgrounds, languages and perspectives and use these as a resource.

Aspect:  
„International  
Classrooms“

- *How do you integrate the perspectives and experiences of international students as a resource in your course?*
- *What methods do you use to promote collaborative learning between students from different countries and with diverse cultural backgrounds?*
- *Which methodological and didactical approaches do you use to promote intercultural understanding?*
- *How do you integrate the knowledge and experience from international contexts into your course?*
- *How do you integrate different perspectives in the course that make it possible to reflect on similarities and differences in approaches in theory and practice?*

### Internationalisation@Home

Teachers can implement concepts in various ways that aim to promote an international mindset at their own university under the keyword “Internationalisation@Home”. Examples include cross-border cooperation or the integration of multilingual components and learning spaces. Innovative methods can also be used to experience international structures in one's own environment (e.g. through excursions) or to analyze them (e.g. through research projects). Another aspect is the involvement of teachers or experts with an international background.

Aspect:  
International-  
isation@Home

- *Which approaches do you use to make international aspects and effects visible and tangible in the student environment?*
- *How do you integrate international cooperation in a didactically meaningful way in your course?*
- *How do you use the knowledge, skills and abilities acquired abroad by students?*
- *How do you actively incorporate knowledge into the course that has been acquired, for example, through international practical experiences (internships, volunteer work, work experiences)?*
- *How do you integrate international experts in a didactically meaningful way into the course?*
- *How do you use innovative digital information and communication technologies to enable an exchange across national borders?*

## Transferable Skills

To successfully interact in international and intercultural contexts, practice and the development of appropriate transferable skills are required. These include intercultural skills, i.e. the ability to interact successfully with people from different cultural backgrounds and to understand different approaches. In addition, general skills such as critical and innovative thinking as well as the ability to communicate, reflect and negotiate are crucial. Award-worthy courses contribute to the development of these skills and competences through their methodical and didactical design. The promotion of these skills can be placed at the center, but it can also be done implicitly by applying appropriate methodological and didactical approaches.

Aspect:  
Transferable  
skills

- *How is interconnected and critical thinking stimulated?*
- *Which methods and approaches do you use to promote communication and/or negotiation skills in students?*
- *Which methodological and didactical approaches do you use to promote students' abilities to interact in international and intercultural contexts?*
- *Which opportunities do you offer in your course to apply acquired intercultural skills in practice?*
- *How is diversity actively promoted as a potential for productive teaching and learning?*

## 3 Award criteria

### ▪ Innovative didactic-methodological concept

To be considered innovative, course designs must be unprecedented at WU with regard to the focus area or use new, uncommon, or unorthodox combinations of teaching and learning concepts. The submission must include a description of the innovative character and added value of the didactic approach employed.

### ▪ Transferability

Course designs considered for the award should serve as examples and models to be followed and should be planned in a way that allows for the didactic concept used to be transferred to other courses.

### ▪ Reflexivity

The teacher has to reflect on the course concept, its goals and the implementation in a systematic way to enhance the teaching and learning quality at WU.

### ▪ Logical connection between course design and learning outcomes

There should be a logical, well-founded connection between the individual didactic elements of the course and the intended learning outcomes of the course (or the learning outcomes of the program or module).

## 4 Award guidelines

- Individuals or groups can submit an application for the Innovative Teaching Award. In case of a group application, a group representative has to be designated. It is the responsibility of the designated applicant to distribute the prize money among the members of a group.

Only individuals or groups that actually perform the eligible activity can receive the award.

- Award winners agree to make the presentation of their course design together with the submitted application form available for publication on WU's website.
- The submission has to meet the standards specified in section 5 of this document. Submissions that do not meet the formal criteria will not be considered for the award.
- All faculty members with teaching activities at WU (or the Executive Academy) in the calendar year 2021 (SS 2021, WS 2021/22) for which the award is presented are eligible to apply or to be nominated for the award.
- Award-winning course designs will be posted on the WU website and possibly on the Teaching and Learning Academy to serve as models for other courses.

## 5 Required documents

Please provide the following documents with your application:

- A **completed application form**: A detailed and publishable **presentation of the course concept** using the template provided in digital form (pdf or doc). This presentation should not exceed a maximum of **15 000 characters** (including spaces) and should not contain more than **five illustrations** (excluding attachments).
- Appendix: e.g. evaluation results (if applicable)

## 6 Application and selection process

The deadline for submissions is **February 9, 2022**. The documents can be sent to [lehrenundlernen@wu.ac.at](mailto:lehrenundlernen@wu.ac.at).

The winning entries will be selected in May 2022 and the Innovative Teaching Award will be presented at the WU Awards Ceremony. The prizes will be paid out together with WU's other performance bonus payments.