

Call for Applications for the 2023¹ Innovative Teaching Award

Teaching in Teams: Innovative Collaborations and Partnerships

For the 2023 Innovative Teaching Award, we invite you to submit course designs based on innovative forms of collaboration in teaching. Outstanding course concepts making use of collaborative teaching contribute to broadening both, the student's and the teacher's perspective. Therefore, this call focusses on innovative course designs with collaborations between teachers coming from diverse backgrounds, different universities or between teachers and external actors.

1 Objectives

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

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-Rectorate for Academic Programs and Student Affairs, an expert on the didactics of higher education, and a student nominated by the ÖH Austrian Students' Union) nominate a maximum of ten courses for the awarding of the innovative teaching award. Their nominations are 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 **models and inspirations** for other teaching staff members to further develop their teaching methods.

¹ Courses held during the 2022 calendar year (summer semester 2022, winter semester 2022/23) are eligible for the 2023 Innovative Teaching Award. Courses held over two semesters (WS 2021/22–SS 2022) can also be nominated.

2 Teaching in Teams: Innovative Collaborations and Partnerships

Collaborative teaching enables students to broaden their perspective in many aspects. They can profit from interdisciplinary, international, intercultural or practical approaches.

Collaborations can take place on different levels:

- between teachers of WU who can introduce diverse perspectives (e.g. through differences in disciplinary backgrounds, occupational experience or teaching experience in different contexts);
- between teachers of WU and teachers of other universities in Austria and elsewhere making use of disciplinary, university-specific, cultural, national as well as regional differences among the participants and thereby contributing to broadening their perspective;
- between teachers of WU and actors from the economy, the public and civil society organisations who strengthen the course concept by bringing in a practical perspective.

The Innovative Teaching Award focusses on the methodical and didactical implementation of these collaborations.

Collaborations between Teachers of diverse Expertise

Award-worthy course designs are characterised by an innovative didactical approach that deliberately makes use of the different perspectives of the teachers. For instance, relevant course designs could include different subject-specific backgrounds or occupational/teaching experience of the teachers in order to provide an interdisciplinary learning experience for the students.

Collaborations between Teachers of diverse Expertise

- *How do you include the diverse expertise of the teachers in order to create an added value for the students?*
- *Which didactical approaches do you use in order to provide an interdisciplinary learning experience for the students?*
- *How do you support the reflection on different theoretical and methodical approaches?*
- *As a teacher, how do you profit from the collaboration with colleagues?*

Collaborations between Teachers of different Universities

Collaborations between teachers of different universities can also promote a broadening of perspective in diverse ways. For instance, this can be done by incorporating the different backgrounds of the teachers and the students into the course design. Besides the learning experience beyond disciplinary, university, national and regional borders, students can strengthen their (intercultural) communicative competences and become acquainted with different teaching and learning cultures.

Collaborations between Teachers of different Universities

- *Which didactical approaches do you use in order to create an added value for students out of collaborations between teachers of different universities?*
- *How do you actively incorporate the different backgrounds and experiences of the students in the course?*
- *How do you use innovative digital information and communication technologies to enable an exchange across different universities?*
- *As a teacher, how do you profit from the collaboration with colleagues from other universities?*

Collaborations with external Actors

In order to allow students to gain practical insights, to apply their acquired knowledge and competences, and to highlight the societal or economic relevance of the covered topics, teachers can integrate external actors from the economy, politics and the civil society into the course design. Award-worthy courses use innovative didactical and methodical approaches linking the acquired theoretical and methodical knowledge with their application through collaborations with external actors.

Collaborations
with external
Actors

- *Which role do external actors play in your course and how do they provide an added value for the students?*
- *How do you enable students to relate the covered topics to current societal/economic problems?*
- *How do you promote the development of diverse, innovative problem-solving approaches in your course?*
- *As a teacher, how do you profit from the collaboration with external actors?*

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 2022 (SS 2022, WS 2022/23) 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).
- Appendix: e.g. evaluation results (if applicable), screenshots from the online learning environment (if relevant).

6 Application and selection process

The deadline for submissions is **February 19, 2023**. Please send the completed form and the attachments to lehrenundlernen@wu.ac.at.

The winning entries will be announced by the Vice Rectorate for Academic Programs and Student Affairs in May 2023. The Innovative Teaching Awards will be awarded at the WU Summer Celebration 2023.

The prizes will be paid out together with WU's other performance bonus payments.