

Call for Proposals: “KoUP” Cooperation Funding 2026

Dear colleagues,

The KoUP funding line is an important university funding instrument. We will be offering this funding again in 2026 (without any country restrictions). Collaborations within the framework of our partnerships, our European university alliance [European Digital UniverCity](#) (EDUC) , and with universities from the [YERUN](#) network are also very welcome in 2026.

With KoUP, the university supports the establishment and expansion of international cooperation in the three pillars of research, teaching, and transfer. The aim is that, in the medium term, the funding will be used to prepare **joint third-party funding applications or joint publications**, or to **develop or initiate formats and partnerships for the internationalization of studies and teaching**. The sustainability of the project (e.g., in terms of the intended third-party funding application or the commitment to achieving student exchange) should already be outlined in the application. The list of eligible activities can be found in the call for proposals.

We ask that interested parties submit their applications by **January 15, 2026**, via email to Marita Böhning, Senior Advisor for International Affairs in the Office of the President (marita.boehning@uni-potsdam.de).

Ms. Böhning is also available to answer questions via telephone at extension -4190. We are looking forward to receiving your applications and to the further successful development of international relationships.

Kind regards,

Prof. Oliver Günther, Ph.D.

Dr. Britta van Kempen

Call for Proposals: “KoUP” Cooperation Funding at the University of Potsdam of December 1, 2025

Objective	The aim of KoUP funding is to establish and expand international cooperation projects.
Focus 2026	There are no priority countries for funding in 2026. The focus is on implementing the UP's internationalization goals. Therefore, applications with reference to the Internationalization Strategy and those involving partner universities and partners of the EDUC Alliance or the YERUN network are particularly welcome. The websites of the International Office also list all university and faculty partnerships of the university.
Eligibility	Professors and academic staff members at all faculties of the University of Potsdam may apply, including doctoral students (only together with a (junior) professor). Furthermore, research support staff are eligible to apply if the further or continuing education program completed abroad is related to a project. Applicants must be members of the university (“Mitglieder”) in accordance with the Basic Regulations of the University of Potsdam (GrundO) .
Funding	Eligible activities: A) Research cooperation: – joint workshops – material resources and consumables – funding measures in the context of publications – finalization of joint research proposals – consortium meetings B) Cooperation in studying and teaching: – development of measures in the field of Online International Learning as purely virtual formats or formats with some attendance requirements and the use of digital media in cooperative teaching.¹ – joint development and/or exchange of digital content for teaching – development of joint modules or degree programs – development and execution of summer schools in Potsdam or abroad that include Potsdam students – execution of teaching visits.² – measures to initiate structured student exchanges after consultation with the International Office Note: Please also note three other current calls for proposals. EDUC R&I Fellowships support research stays for scientists at all career stages. Funding is available for short-to medium-term mobility that strengthens exchange between EDUC partner universities and their innovation ecosystems (applications accepted from December 1, 2025,

¹ For the development, conception, and implementation of virtual cooperation projects in the areas of studying and teaching, you can contact the [Center for Teaching Quality Development/COILUP](#) (Frederic Matthe frederic.matthe@uni-potsdam.de).

² Please also note the possibility of organizing [teaching visits](#) through the Erasmus+ program.

until funds are exhausted) . In addition, another call for proposals allows you to use the [research infrastructures](#) of the eastern EDUC partner institutions for your research project. The list of participating infrastructures can be found in the call for proposals documents (application deadline: February 27, 2026, 12:00 p.m. CET). In addition, [EDUC travel funds](#) are available, which can be applied for to establish and expand co-operation between the University of Potsdam and EDUC partner universities in the areas of teaching and research (application deadline: January 31, 2026, with any remaining funds to be awarded at a later date).

Funding amounts	The maximum funding amount is 3,000 EUR or 6,000 EUR, depending on the country group (see below). The funds must be used in the calendar year 2026.
Selection criteria	The submitted exposé and the financial plan (formal criteria) are evaluated. When evaluating the applications, the following prioritization will be made: In the case of funding for studying and teaching, applications that highlight the benefits for the internationalization of studying and teaching are particularly worthy of funding; in the case of funding for research, those that plausibly highlight a planned application for third-party funding or joint publications are particularly worthy of funding. In the case of follow-up KoUP applications, you will need to clarify how the funding is interlinked. If the application volume exceeds the available funds, applications with partner universities and strategic partners may be prioritized.
Application	The application may be submitted in English or German and must consist of (i) the attached form (Excel); (ii) a maximum one-page description of the joint project (exposé template). The application must highlight the potential and relevance of the project for the internationalization of the university. Please explain the contribution that the project can make in this regard. In addition, (iii) a financial plan must be attached, which may also include own funds, if applicable. When applying for travel costs, you must identify the universities and faculties to be visited. Note regarding the preparation of the financial plan: When preparing your financial plans, please consult the information provided by Division 4 on international travel costs ("Auslandsreisekostenverordnung"); for student assistant positions, please see the current salary overview ("Berechnungsgrößen für Studentische Beschäftigte"). You can use the suggested rates on this website for the calculation of travel expenses (in and out) in your financial plan. Travel expenses will be charged in accordance with the Federal Travel Expenses Act. Incoming individuals are reimbursed for incurred travel and accommodation costs. Scholarships or mobility grants cannot be awarded. If the plans concern the reimbursement of travel costs for students (incoming or outgoing), consultation with Ms. Böhning is obligatory for the creation of a financial plan. Fees should be calculated within appropriate limits. This funding cannot be allocated to expenditures for meals, gifts to cooperation partners or participants, or for other representation purposes. The funding also cannot be spent on basic equipment (laptops etc.) or research/laboratory equipment. Please also note that budget regulations apply to the disbursement of funds.
Deadline	Please submit your application via e-mail by January 15, 2026 , to Ms. Marita Böhning.

Country groups

There are country groups that determine the possible funding amount. The following points will help you determine the possible funding amount:

I) Maximum funding amount of 3,000 EUR: European countries (see <https://www.daad.de/de/laenderinformationen/europa/>)

II) Maximum funding amount of 6,000 EUR: all other countries not covered by I)

Contact

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