Generalsekretariat

Call for proposals
Grant with continuous application period

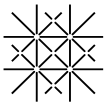# ConnectEU: Let's connect with European Universities

7 January 2025 | General Secretariat

By participating in two European <u>university alliances, Eucor & EPICUR</u>, the University of Basel aims to increase the international component of its offerings, add value for employees and students, and boost Basel's international standing as a place to study and research. Eucor – The European Campus is a trinational alliance of five universities in the Upper Rhine metropolitan region. Its members are the University of Freiburg and the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology in Germany, the University of Strasbourg and the University of Haute-Alsace (Mulhouse - Colmar) in France, and the University of Basel in Switzerland. EPICUR, the European University Alliance, includes nine universities in seven European countries. In addition to the Eucor universities (with the exception of the University of Basel), its members are the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań (Poland), the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece), the University of Southern Denmark in Odense (Denmark), the University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences in Vienna (Austria) and the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands). Eucor is an official associate partner of EPICUR. This allows the University of Basel to conduct projects with EPICUR partner universities. The University of Basel is able to support these projects with funds from the Swiss Federal Council.

Objective

The **ConnectEU: Let's connect with European Universities** funding instrument allows the University of Basel to support teaching staff, early career researchers, administrative personnel and students at the University of Basel who wish to increase the international component of their offerings as part of a collaboration with one or more of the nine European partner universities. **ConnectEU** is divided into six lines of funding:

1. **Teaching**: Initiation activities (guest lectures, exploratory workshops), joint courses (block courses, seasonal schools, field trips, blended and hybrid formats, etc.) and structure-building teaching collaborations (mobility recommendations, regulated module exchange, mobility windows, joint modules, programs and degree programs)

2. **Initiating research projects**: Networking activities (e.g. exploratory workshops, Match-making, kick-off workshops), project planning (e.g. proposal writing retreat), pilot projects (e.g. proof of concept) or data collection and other preparatory measures for collaborative projects

3. **Networking and continuing education for early career researchers**: Events initiated by early career researchers (networking activities, reading circles, symposiums, conferences, etc.) and institutionally enshrined offerings (subject/method-based courses, transferable skills courses, courses on science communication).

4. **Staff exchange, inter-university dialog and intercultural advanced training**: Examples include staff exchanges, job shadowing, exchange of best practises, expert workshops on subject-specific topics, joint advanced training, certificates
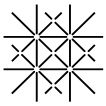
5. **Student engagement**: Events organized by students or external events of an international nature (e.g. sports or cultural activities)

6. **Outreach (science communication, citizen science, entrepreneurship)**: Improving the visibility of scientific work within or beyond the university context as well as dialog with the worlds of economics, politics and society (science communication), promoting entrepreneurial skills (e.g. entrepreneurship courses), research projects with citizen assistance (citizen science)

Prerequisites, submission format and application period

- Project responsibility: Members of all groups at the University of Basel (teaching staff, administrative staff, students and doctoral candidates) can apply for funding. The main applicant must be a member of the University of Basel.

- Scope of application: Grant funds must benefit members of the University of Basel only (exception: expert fees, service contracts).

- Consortium: The project consortium must have an inter-university structure. It must be a collaboration with at least one EPICUR university. Additional partners (not limited to EPICUR universities) can be included.

- Target group: The project must be open to both members of the University of Basel and to members of the co-applicant EPICUR partner university. Example: Jointly organized courses must be open to students from Basel and students from the other university involved. The project should preferably be open to all EPICUR students, but this is not a mandatory funding criterion.

- Time frame: The project must be implemented by 31 October 2026 at the latest. The project duration is flexible.

- Application period: Projects can be submitted at any time by sending the application form to eucor-epicur@unibas.ch. Applications are evaluated in the order in which they are received. Funding is possible as long as funds remain available.

Funding amount and expenses eligible for grants

ConnectEU: Let's connect with European Universities provides up to CHF 20,000 of funding for a project. In exceptional cases, a larger sum can be requested for structure-building projects (e.g. development of international modules, mobility windows, etc.). The University of Basel expense regulations and the Movetia funding guidelines apply. Any travel and/or accommodation costs that may arise are part of the project funding. Rail travel is to be prioritized over air travel; this is considered reasonable for journeys of up to 6 hours each way. If university members replace air travel with a longer journey by rail (4 hours and above), they can claim for an additional overnight stay (green mobility). In principle, mobility costs are only eligible for reimbursement if they are incurred for journeys to the EPICUR countries (Switzerland, Germany, France, Netherlands, Austria, Greece, Poland).

Once an applicant has been notified that funding is approved, they can open a new project number (PSP element) via the Grants Tool. The approved funding amount is transferred to the project number. Once the project has concluded, the project owner sends a detailed statement of actual expenditure to the Eucor & EPICUR team. Any funds remaining are returned by the project owner.

Costs eligible for funding:
- Travel costs for students, teaching staff and employees at the University of Basel (the expense regulations of the University of Basel apply, max. CHF 500/trip)
- Accommodation costs for students, teaching staff and employees at the University of Basel (the expense regulations of the University of Basel apply)
- Fees for external experts (max. CHF 800/per day/per person)
- Food costs for students, teaching staff and employees at the University of Basel and accompanying persons (the expense regulations of the University of Basel apply)
- Event costs (room hire, materials, interpreting)
- Reimbursement of expenses claimed by employees at the University of Basel who take on additional coordinating activities
- Communication and advertising measures (graphic design orders, printing costs, marketing activities, etc.)

Costs not eligible for funding:
- Travel costs for students, teaching staff and employees of other universities
- Accommodation costs for students, teaching staff and employees of other universities
- Personnel costs for employees of other universities
- Teaching assignments of University of Basel employees
- Expenses relating to construction and installation, rental, operation and maintenance costs, general fixtures and fittings (e.g. IT equipment, office furniture, hand tools, protective clothing) or the procurement, exchange or repair of devices

Application

Applications for **ConnectEU: Let's connect with European Universities** are accepted at any time and will be evaluated within four weeks. The applicant will then be informed immediately of any funding decisions that have been made. Applicants must send the completed application form to eucor-epicur@unibas.ch. The Eucor & EPICUR team will be happy to help with application questions sent to this email address.