

EDLAB Education Innovation Grants

Call for proposals 2026-2027

Do you want to turn your
education innovation idea
into
reality?

EDLAB Innovation Grant

EDLAB – Maastricht University Centre for Teaching & Learning, invites Maastricht University teaching staff to apply for an EDLAB education innovation grant of max. **€7,500**. The grant promotes practical innovations within UM's teaching & learning environment. EDLAB strives for diversification of problem-based learning formats, generating an optimal integration of collaborative, contextual, constructive and self-directed learning (CCCS) experiences. We hence want to support creative ideas that may lead to innovations in themes such as PBL - CCCS, design, delivery & assessment of education, global citizenship education, student guidance and the overall learning and teaching experience at UM.

Application deadline

The application deadline is Thursday 19 November 2026, 17:00 CET. Proposals can be sent to walter.jansen@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Goal

In 2018, the EDview project called for a revitalisation of PBL, emphasising PBL's core learning principles: collaborative, contextual, constructive and self-directed learning, and for diversification and creative renewal of PBL formats. Through the education innovation grants EDLAB encourages the active exploration of new questions, ideas and formats in teaching & learning, by connecting theory with educational practice. Hence, the emphasis of a typical grant project is on experimentation and practice, yet with a rationale and approach informed by theory.

EDLAB fully underpins UM's 'Recognition and Rewards' programme. In this light, the grant represents a sign of appreciation for the work and commitment of UM teaching staff. PBL is a labour-intensive system, filled with innovative dynamics. Through the grant, EDLAB hopes to create a little space, time and acknowledgement for especially new and early-career teaching staff to transform innovative ideas into good educational practice. Naturally, seasoned teaching staff are encouraged to apply as well.

Theme

Overall, the grant is focused on *Education Innovation in the UM problem-based teaching & learning environment*. Linked to this, you can think of sub-themes that are intrinsically linked to UM's educational philosophy and learning environment and that EDLAB considers to be relevant to today's educational challenges:

- Diverse and creative PBL formats
- Teaching delivery
- AI & PBL
- PBL & Assessment
- Global citizenship education
- Student Guidance

Short summary

EDLAB Education Innovation Grant

The education innovation projects focus on improving/impacting UM's PBL educational teaching & learning environment. Grant amount €7,500.

Grant proposals address all of the following stages:

- Design
- Experimentation
- Evaluation

Proposals can cover a broad range of educational issues at UM with a direct or indirect impact on:

- Educational design
- Educational practice
- Delivery of education
- Assessment
- Teaching & learning culture or experience

Potential sub-themes may be:

- Diverse and creative PBL formats
- Teaching delivery
- AI & PBL
- PBL & Assessment
- Global citizenship education
- Student Guidance

Deadline: Thursday 19 November 2026, 17:00 CET.

Guidelines for application

Who can apply?

This call is open to all UM teaching staff with a contractual teaching load of at least 20% and a >0.5 fte appointment at UM. To carry out project work it is allowed to work in a team (incl. students), yet the main applicant is solely responsible for the project progress, deliverables, financial management, etc.

Restrictions

- One main applicant per proposal
- One proposal per main applicant
- Main applicants can only be a team member in max. 1 other proposal, and vice versa
- The call is not open for EDLAB employees
- The call is not open for colleagues who are strongly affiliated with EDLAB (e.g. members of EDLAB boards/steering groups or EDLAB secondments)
- This call is not open to recipients of an EDLAB grant in the past two years
- This call is not open for students (check our Student Advisory Board for project options – write to lena.gromotka@maastrichtuniversity.nl)

Selection

Education innovation proposals will be reviewed by the EDLAB Advisory Board, consisting of senior academic staff members from all faculties, a UM library representative, the EDLAB director and EDLAB coordinators. The board will make the final selection of winning proposals. During the selection phase, the board is at liberty to take the following principles into account:

- *UM faculty spread*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee reserves the right to make a final selection that favours representation of all UM faculties.
- *Encouragement of early-career teaching staff*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee reserves the right to make a final selection that advances early-career teaching staff.

Assessment criteria

EDLAB applies the following assessment criteria:

- *Level of innovation*
The proposal demonstrates the level of innovation and originality of the applicant's idea, with respect to improving the PBL teaching & learning experience/environment, based on new insights, trends, educational developments, supported with relevant sources.

- *Expected results*
The proposal presents a clear definition of the problem or need and provides a rationale for the proposed solution.
- *Quality of the project plan*
The proposal is coherently written and stylistically sound. It presents a project plan including an overview of deliverables, timeline, resources and a simple budget overview.
- *Evaluation, communication, dissemination*
Grant recipients are expected to evaluate and share the project outcomes with the UM teaching community. The proposal indicates how the results will be evaluated and what the preferred communication and dissemination formats might be (e.g. article in EDLAB magazine edUMinded, blog, social media outputs, video testimonial, presentation at an EDLAB event, publication in an academic, practice-based publication).
- *Professional status and ‘about’ the applicant*
The proposal includes a short description of the applicant’s current position, background, teaching activities, an inspiring educational vision and insights into educational (career) ambitions.

Budget

The proposal can be based on a budget of max. €7,500. EDLAB welcomes additional matching funds from within the faculty or other UM stakeholders.

Budget and time allocation

The main applicant is fully and individually responsible for the budget allocation and budget management. It may be sensible to require agreement from the department chair or department education coordinator that time will be created for the project by shifting ongoing tasks and responsibilities in case of successful application.

Budget can for example be used for:

- teaching buy-out
- reduction of tasks
- hiring student assistants
- acquiring hardware (max. 50%)
- ordering basic catering

EDLAB expects a responsible and proportional expenditure of the budget in direct relation to the deliverables and goals of the project proposal.

The budget can, for example, not be used for:

- financing or extension of employee contracts
- expensive travel
- external conferences

Budget number

After winning a grant, the money will be transferred to a budget number as communicated by the main applicant, preferably in the grant application form. In case there is no budget number available, please contact your department head and financial controller to create a budget number and then provide that number to EDLAB, so we can transfer the requested budget in time.

Project output

Depending on the type of project, the output can differ. In some cases, there can be physical output whereas in others the output is more conceptual or descriptive. In any case EDLAB is interested in monitoring and collecting your output. Besides the project output it is not necessary to write a formal project report.

Possible forms of output:

- educational tool
- didactic blueprint
- Canvas module
- written insights
- methodic evaluation
- lessons learned document
- reflective article

It is up to the project leader to take care of making the project output available to the UM teaching community. On request, EDLAB can assist in raising awareness UM-wide.

Project presentation and outreach

Winning grant applicants will be requested to:

- record a short video in which you introduce yourself and explain your project to the UM community. You will receive instructions from EDLAB at the beginning of 2027. EDLAB staff will take care of editing. Please note that the videos will be published on EDLAB's website and shared on social media channels ([see videos of previous grant winners](#)).
- present your project and any updates during EDLAB Education Days or other community events/in writing (e.g. [edUMinded](#)) in 2027-2028.
- present your findings and evaluation of the project during EDLAB Education Days or other EDLAB community events/in writing (e.g. [edUMinded](#)) in 2028.

Timeline

Date	Phase
September 2026	Publication of the call
Thursday 19 November 2026, 17:00 CET	Application deadline
November/December 2026	Review and selection
December 2026	Publication of results and feedback by e-mail
January – May 2027	Envisioned project start
January 2027 – May 2028	Project period
June 2027	Progress presentation at UM Education Days
June 2028	Presentation of final results at UM Education Days

Contact

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