

EDLAB Education Innovation Grants

Call for proposals 2026



EDLAB Education Innovation Grant

EDLAB, Maastricht University's Centre for Teaching & Learning, invites Maastricht University teaching staff to apply for an EDLAB education innovation grant of €7,500. The grant supports practical innovations within UM's teaching and learning environment. EDLAB aims to diversify Problem-Based Learning (PBL) formats and to strengthen the integration of collaborative, contextual, constructive, and self-directed (CCCS) learning. We therefore support creative ideas that may lead to innovations in areas such as PBL–CCCS, the design, delivery and assessment of education, global citizenship education, and the overall learning and teaching experience at UM.

Application deadline

Thursday 13 November 2025, 12:00 CET.

Please send proposals to walter.jansen@maastrichtuniversity.nl

Goal

In 2018, the [EDview](#) project called for a revitalisation of PBL, emphasising its 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 and learning by connecting theory with educational practice. The emphasis of a typical grant project is on experimentation and practice, underpinned by a clear rationale and an approach informed by theory.

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

Theme

Overall, the grant focuses on **education innovation** in UM's problem-based teaching and learning environment. Related sub-themes aligned with UM's educational philosophy and today's challenges include:

- 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 13 November 2025, 12:00 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 an appointment of greater than 0.5 FTE at UM. Projects may be carried out by teams; however, the main applicant is solely responsible for project progress, deliverables and financial management.

Restrictions

- One main applicant per proposal.
- One proposal per main applicant.

- Main applicants may participate as a team member in a maximum of one other proposal, and vice versa.
- The call is not open to EDLAB employees.
- The call is not open to colleagues strongly affiliated with EDLAB (e.g. members of EDLAB boards/steering groups or EDLAB secondments).
- This call is not open to students (see the Student Advisory Board for project options — write to lena.gromotka@maastrichtuniversity.nl).
- This call is not open to previous EDLAB grant winners within the past two years.

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 may take the following principles into account:

- *Participation by all faculties*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee reserves the right to make a final selection that represents all UM faculties.
- *Encouragement of early-career teaching staff*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee reserves the right to advance early-career teaching staff.

Assessment criteria

EDLAB applies the following criteria:

- *Expected results*
The proposal clearly defines the problem or need and provides a rationale for the proposed solution.
- *Level of innovation*
The proposal demonstrates the innovation and originality of the idea in improving the PBL teaching and learning experience/environment, informed by new insights, trends and educational developments, and supported with relevant sources.
- *Quality of the project plan*
The proposal is coherent and stylistically sound. It includes a plan with deliverables, timeline, resources and a simple budget overview.
- *Evaluation, communication, dissemination*
Grant recipients are expected to evaluate and share project outcomes with the UM teaching community. The proposal indicates how results will be evaluated and which communication and dissemination formats are preferred (e.g. article in EDLAB's magazine *edUMinded*, blog, social media outputs, video testimonial, presentation at an EDLAB event, or publication in an academic/practice-based publication).
- *Professional status and information about the applicant*
The proposal includes a short description of the applicant's current position, background, teaching activities, educational vision and (career) ambitions.

Budget allocation

Proposals may request a budget of up to **€7,500**. Funds will be transferred to a budget number communicated by the main applicant, who is fully responsible for allocation and management. The budget may be used, for example, for teaching buy-out, task reduction, hiring student assistants, acquiring hardware (up to 50% of the budget), or catering. EDLAB expects responsible and proportionate expenditure in direct relation to the project's goals and deliverables. Additional matching funds from faculties or other UM stakeholders are welcome.

Project output

Projects are expected to run January 2026–May 2027, with progress and final outcomes shared at the UM Education Days (June each year). Depending on your project's outputs (e.g. insights, tools, didactic blueprints), the project leader is responsible for educational integration and making results available to the UM teaching community. On request, EDLAB can help raise awareness across UM.

Project presentation and outreach

Winning grant applicants will be asked to:

- Record a short video introducing yourself and your project to the UM community. You will receive instructions from EDLAB in early 2026. EDLAB staff will handle editing. Videos will be published on EDLAB's website and shared on social media ([see videos of previous grant winners](#)).
- Present your project and any updates during UM Education Days or other community events, or in writing (e.g. [edUMinded](#)) in 2026–2027.
- Present your findings and evaluation during UM Education Days or other EDLAB community events, or in writing (e.g. [edUMinded](#)) in 2027.

Timeline

Date	Phase
September 2025	Publication of the call
Thursday 13 November 2025, 12:00 CET	Deadline application
November 2025	Review and selection
December 2025	Publication of results and feedback by email
January – May 2026	Envisioned project start
January 2026 – May 2027	Project period
June 2026	Progress presentation at UM Education Days
June 2027	Presentation of final results at UM Education Days

Contact

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