

Call for Proposals: LLO Seed Grants Faculty of Social Sciences 2026-2027

Call for proposals to stimulate innovative education for professionals

Submission deadline: Friday, 27 November 2026, 17:00

1. Introduction

The Faculty Board of the Faculty of Social Sciences (FSW) places strategic importance on developing and broadening its portfolio in the field of Lifelong Learning (LLO). Offering academically based education to professionals increases the faculty's social impact and creates sustainable educational innovation.

In order to initiate and facilitate the development of new LLO programmes, the faculty is introducing the LLO Seed Grants. This subsidy is intended as a tool to support teaching staff in developing an initial idea into a concrete and viable concept for LLO education. This call for proposals invites staff to submit proposals.

2. Objective

The primary objective of the LLO Seed Grant is to stimulate the initial development phase of innovative LLO courses, training programmes and other forms of education for professionals. The grant facilitates the allocation of time and resources to develop a concept or investigate its feasibility. For the 2026-2027 pilot, there is budget available to fund three proposals.

3. Criteria

- The grant is open to all staff members with an educational role within the Faculty of Social Sciences, including support staff, (skills) lecturers, senior lecturers, associate professors and professors.
- Applications may be submitted by individual staff members or small teams.
- Proposals in collaboration with other faculties or educational institutions are permitted, provided that the main applicant is affiliated with the FSW and the project benefits the development of the FSW's LLO portfolio.

4. Specifications

4.1 Development direction

A grant can be applied for projects that focus on the initial development phase of LLO provision in three categories:

- **Concept development:** The systematic development of a new or existing idea into a detailed educational concept. This includes formulating learning objectives, designing a programme, and developing teaching methods and materials.
- **Feasibility study:** Conducting targeted research into the viability of an idea that has already been developed. Examples include a target group or market analysis, or the development of a pilot module to test market demand.
- **Other:** Projects that do not fall under the above categories but do have a clear LLO component.

4.2 Focus areas

The LLO Seed Grants are open to all themes for this pilot edition, but in the event of equal suitability, priority will be given to proposals that are substantiated and related to the following [profile themes](#) that are important to FSW:

- Social transitions (resilient democratic societies)
- Generation of the future (critical citizenship and intergenerational resilience)
- Health and well-being
- AI for humans, society and science
- Sustainability and biodiversity'

4.3 Budget and duration

- **Budget:** The grant comprises a fixed amount of €4,000 per approved proposal. This amount will be transferred to the relevant institution as compensation for the applicant(s)' efforts for approximately 40 hours. A detailed financial report by the applicant is not required.
- **Duration:** The projects must be carried out in the period from January 2027 until December 2027.

4.4 Deliverables

Each approved project must deliver at least one tangible product at the end of its term. Examples include:

- A detailed course design, including learning objectives, bibliography and programme outline.
- A functional pilot version of an (online) educational module or workshop.
- A detailed syllabus, suitable for market research.
- A presentation (pitch) for potential external clients.

In addition, each applicant is expected to submit a concise final report (max. 2 A4 pages) with a description of the results and recommendations for follow-up steps.

5. Submission and assessment procedure

5.1 Structure and submission

Proposals should be concise (+/- 1000 words, excluding appendices) and contain the following sections:

1. **Project details:** Name(s) and institution of the applicant(s).
2. **Project description:** A clear description of the subject, the content structure, and the scientific and social relevance. A clear relationship with the expertise of the applicant(s) must be demonstrated.
3. **Target group description:** A reasoned description of the intended target group of professionals.
4. **Project plan:** A specific description of the central question to be answered with the grant and a plan of action for the use of the approximately 40 hours of development time.
5. **Statement of agreement:** A statement from the director of education at your institution, expressing support for the proposal. This can be a screenshot of an email or a simple signed document.

Proposals can be submitted via this [Microsoft Forms questionnaire](#).

5.2 Assessment criteria

The proposals will be assessed by a committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- **Quality and originality:** The substantive validity, innovativeness and academic depth of the proposal.
- **Strategic alignment:** The extent to which the proposal contributes to the faculty's strategic LLO objectives. Proposals that explicitly align with the faculty's profile themes (social transitions, generation of the future, health and well-being, human-centred AI, and sustainable society) will be prioritised if equally suitable.
- **Feasibility and potential:** The realism of the action plan and the potential of the proposal to develop into a successful and sustainable LLO programme.
- **Market potential:** The estimated relevance and attractiveness of the proposed programme for the external target group.

5.3 Assessment Committee

- Mienieke van der Salm (education policy officer), chair
- Anthea Aerts (educational advisor)
- Hester Bergsma (head of research policy and support)
- Annelies van Bentum (coordinator of LLO initiatives at FSW)

6. Timeline

- **Publication of call for proposals:** 18 October 2025
- **Deadline for submitting proposals:** 27 November 2025, 17:00
- **Announcement of awards:** January 2027
- **Start and implementation of projects:** January 2027 – December 2027
- **Submission of final products:** No later than 31 December 2027

7. Final points

- Once an application has been approved, there is no guarantee that LLO education can be provided after the initial grant. Any continuation or implementation always requires the approval of a manager and the institute's board.
- The LLO Seed Grant is a pilot project. Experiences and feedback from this first edition will be taken into account for any subsequent editions. The assessment committee is therefore open to a more flexible interpretation of the outlines in this call.
- The university's Large Language Model platform [LUCA](#) has been used in writing and translating this call to support sentence structure and formatting.

8. Contact information

For further information about the call (or the theme of LLO in general), please contact [Annelies van Bentum](#), coordinator of LLO initiatives at FSW.