

Call for applications for Ulm teaching incubators

A funding program from Ulm University for the teaching of the future

In the structure and development plan 2022-2026, Ulm University has defined an incubator concept to promote excellent teaching at the personal level. Lecturers in the Ulm teaching incubators develop innovative, curiosity-driven courses and transfer them into practice. Ulm University provides individual teachers and groups with financial resources so that they can intensively develop, test, evaluate and publish innovative teaching developments. The supported teachers and teaching groups are supported and advised by the Center for Teaching Development.

Objectives

The Ulm teaching incubators enable profiling in and with highly topical teaching, a sustainable implementation of new developments in teaching at Ulm University. By identifying promising teaching formats beyond the mainstream and by developing new focal points in teaching, the Ulm teaching incubators create good starting opportunities in competition and tendering processes. The Ulm teaching incubators thus set incentives for better teaching, student marketing and applications for second-party and third-party funding for teaching.

The funding period in the Ulm teaching incubator is a maximum of 2 years and includes the following phases:

- A conception phase of one semester for intensive conceptual work and preparation of an implementation phase (“Konzeptionsphase”)
- A practical phase of 1-2 semesters in which the concept is tested (“Praxisphase”)
- A follow-up phase of a maximum of one semester, in which the evaluation results can be evaluated and, if necessary, the concept can be improved (“Nachbereitungsphase”).



Application and selection process

The application period for the **applications ends on May 31, 2026**. You can apply with the option of starting the conception phase in the winter semester 2026/27 or in the summer semester 2027. Funding commitments will be sent to the successful applicants at the end of July 2025. The official award ceremony will take place during the Tag der Lehre (Teaching Day, probably November 2026).

Applications can be submitted by professors and permanently employed lecturers at Ulm University. For lecturers from the medical faculty, the application is only possible on an interdisciplinary basis with at least one co-applicant from the non-medical faculties. Applications from a single person from medicine or a group from medicine alone are not eligible.

An application comprises a maximum of 4 pages, a submission form is attached to this call for applications. A work and milestone plan, brief CVs of all applicants with a particular focus on teaching and the planned distribution of funding over the calendar years of the project term must be attached to the application. For group applications, the desired distribution of funds among the project partners must also be specified. Applications should be submitted via zle@uni-ulm.de with the subject line "Antrag Ulmer Lehrinkubatoren 2026".

The appraisal of the applications for funding is carried out by a selection committee consisting of representatives of lecturers as well as representatives of the Executive Committee and students. When deciding on funding, the members of the selection committee use the following criteria as a basis in particular:

- Innovation content
- Practicability
- Fitting to the funding priorities
- Willingness to participate intensively in the discourse in the incubator
- Interdisciplinarity
- Development potential
- Transferability

The selection committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee on the applications to be funded by July 15, 2026. A decision on the funded projects is made by the Executive Committee.

Scope of funding, use of funds and evaluation

The amount of funding for individually funded persons is €50,000, teaching groups are funded with €100,000. The prerequisite for applying for a group project is that partners from at least two disciplines work on substantial, separate aspects of the project. The financial resources are used for start-up financing, which can also be spent outside of the actual teaching project to create free space for teaching. After approval, Department IV sets up the project accounts and makes the approved funds available in the form of lump sums.

The approved funds can be used for material and investment expenses, travel expenses, external orders and teaching assignments as well as for hiring or increasing staff. Only such positions can be financed through the Ulm teaching incubators that serve a qualification (doctoral students/postdocs). Use for representational expenses (e.g. entertainment or gifts) is excluded. The project managers must observe the requirements of the state of Baden-Württemberg and the DFG Code of Conduct "Guidelines for Safeguarding Good Scientific Practice" when spending the money.



The success of the funded teaching incubators is recorded and assessed in regular monitoring. In addition to evaluating the teaching in the practical phase, this also includes recording the impact of the funding measure using general criteria and criteria specifically tailored to your project, which relate to the project results you expect.

Funded persons or groups report on their project progress and results at the network events at Ulm University (e.g. Teaching Day, Didactics Lunch, Incubator Day). If possible, the funded persons or groups are also requested to report on their incubator concept and the results at conferences, in publications or similar formats with visibility beyond Ulm University.