

## Fund for “Innovative Digital Teaching” at the University of Mannheim

### *Call for applications, Fall semester 2022*

#### Objectives

The foundation “Innovation in der Hochschullehre” funds multiple projects in innovative teaching and learning across Germany. One of those is the project “Innovation ermöglichen und Transfer fördern: Strukturen für digitale Hochschullehre (InnoMA)” (Enabling innovation and fostering transfer: Structures for digital teaching at higher education institutions). InnoMA started in August 2021 and will run for the duration of three years. The objective of InnoMA is the structured funding and subsequent transfer of sustainable developments in digital teaching methods at the University of Mannheim. The fund is designed to enable teaching staff to try out new digital teaching formats while providing them with both the necessary financial freedom as well as methodological and technical support. The funded projects are scientifically researched and evaluated by the Center for Teacher Education and Educational Innovation (ZLBI). The effectiveness of the implemented digital elements is investigated as part of this process. The research results will lead to general recommendations regarding the use of digital teaching methods at the University of Mannheim.

#### Project funds

InnoMA aims to fund projects that aspire to strengthen teaching in higher education and that wish to (further) develop and try out new or proven digital elements in their teaching. The projects are supposed to harness the potentials of digitization in teaching in order to create added value for students and increase learning efficacy. Funding for projects can commence in January 2023 at the earliest and no later than May 2023. The funding period is up to one year. It is possible to request funding for staffing, either to hire academic staff or student assistants, or for material acquisitions to purchase software licenses and/or hardware. For the entire duration of the InnoMA project, a sum of EUR 1.1 million is available. Individual projects can receive funding of up to EUR 75,000 and joint projects consisting of several chairs can be granted up to EUR 100,000. Projects with smaller funding amounts are particularly welcome.

#### Application Requirements

All teaching staff at the University of Mannheim are eligible to apply for funding from the “Innovative Digital Teaching” fund. Should your application for funding be successful, please be aware that you or your project team are expected to:

- actively participate in regular exchange formats (two to three times per semester) to share your project experience.
- work collaboratively together with the InnoMA team regarding the research and evaluation of your project. This could entail developing a framework to evaluate your digital teaching concept or collecting relevant data, while complying with data protection standards.
- consult with the InnoMA team before procuring any hardware or software licenses.
- develop a realistic plan on the use of resources and inform the InnoMA team of any changes to your proposed schedule, the hiring of staff or your financial plan.

- agree to allow project results to be publicly shared within the context of presentations and publications and to inform the InnoMA team of any of your own publications arising from this project.
- actively participate in writing reports, creating patterns that can help transfer your project idea to other settings, and to share samples of your work as open access and/or open educational resources.

## Application Procedure

Applications for funding from the “Innovative Digital Teaching” fund can be submitted between 5 September and 7 October 2022. Please send your completed application form (which you can find [here](#)) via email to [innoma@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:innoma@uni-mannheim.de).

After the application deadline, a selection committee will jointly decide which projects will receive funding. The committee is made up of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Teaching, the Head of the Teaching and Learning Center, representatives from the university’s different schools as well as representatives of academic staff members and students. Each application will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Student-centered approach
- Suitability of the methodology
- Transferability to other contexts
- Potential for innovation, measured against the status quo at the respective departments
- Level of further development of your own understanding of teaching
- Feasibility

Funding may be granted subject to a successful thorough evaluation of all intended hardware and software purchases as well as a review of any potential data protection issues.

## Events

You are invited to attend the following online events, which are designed to support you during the application process:

Event	Date	Time	Language
Information event	1 September 2022	10 to 11 am	German
Idea generating workshop “Explore – Create – Innovate”	7 September 2022	3 to 5 pm	German
Idea generating workshop “Explore – Create – Innovate”	9 September 2022	1 to 5 pm	German
Idea generating workshop “Explore – Create – Innovate”	12 September 2022	10 to 12 am	English
Office hours for methodological and technical questions	Every Tuesday	2 to 4 pm	German, English
Office hours for administrative questions	Every Wednesday	10 to 12 am	German, English

## Contact

You can find further information on InnoMA, the “Innovative Digital Teaching” fund and all events [here](#). Should you have any questions, please contact the InnoMA team at [innoma@uni-mannheim.de](mailto:innoma@uni-mannheim.de).