EDLAB Education Research Grants
Call for proposals 2024-2025

EDLAB Education Research Grant

EDLAB - Maastricht University Centre for Teaching & Learning invites Maastricht University staff to apply for an EDLAB education research grant of up to €10.000, -. This grant aims to stimulate academic and support staff to conduct short-term education research on a topic related to teaching & learning at UM. This grant is also intended to serve as a stepping stone for researchers interested in applying for larger education grants, such as Comenius, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL), and other NRO grants.

Application deadline

The application deadline is Thursday 28 March 2024, 12:00 CET. Proposals can be sent to a.pan@maastrichtuniversity.nl.

Goal

In collaboration with the faculties, EDLAB supports the vitality and sustainability of Maastricht University's education research and its connection with education innovation by providing professional training programs, facilitating and funding research projects, organising communities of practice and knowledge-sharing events, and communicating about education research activities to both internal and external audiences.

Through the education research grants, EDLAB encourages the investigation of research questions aimed at developing understanding and contributing to the improvement of education. Hence, the emphasis of a typical grant project is on theoretically informed and methodologically appropriate investigation of aspects of educational design, delivery, assessment, and/or teaching/learning experience—with a clear link to educational practice.

At EDLAB, we believe that education research is essential to maintaining Maastricht University's leadership in research-based education innovation. We also recognise that UM staff working in all disciplines and roles may be interested in conducting education research, and they also have valuable perspectives and knowledge to contribute to such research. Therefore, EDLAB hopes the education research grants can offer space and time, as well as professional development and network building, for UM staff with minimal prior experience but a genuine interest in education research to explore research ideas they would otherwise not be able to.

Conducting education research often requires familiarity not only with the educational context and content and/or level being taught, but also with theoretical background and methodological approaches different from those common to other research disciplines. Therefore, this grant invites interdisciplinary collaboration and encourages the development of mentor-mentee relationships between staff members who are relatively less- and more experienced in conducting education research. Grant proposals can be submitted by teams of a minimum of 2 to a maximum of 6 members, who represent at least 2 different UM faculties/service centres. Recognising that this requirement may pose additional challenges, we will offer a series of events and workshops designed to help participants learn and grow through such challenges (see timeline below).

Theme

Overall, the grant is focused on ***education research with regard to topics essential to the Maastricht University problem-based learning & teaching environment***, such as: educational design, educational delivery, assessment, and the teaching/learning experience. You can think of sub-themes that are intrinsically linked to UM's educational philosophy and learning environment, and that EDLAB considers to be integral to today's educational challenges, including but not limited to:

- [CCCS in PBL formats](#)
- PBL & Assessment
- Teaching delivery
- Educational culture
- [Global Citizenship Education for Sustainable Development](#)
- New technologies such as AI and VR
- Student engagement
- Advising & mentoring

Short summary

EDLAB Education Research Grant

The aim of this grant is to stimulate both academic and support staff to conduct short-term education research linked to developing understanding of and innovating the problem-based learning & teaching environment at Maastricht University.

Grant proposals are submitted by teams of minimum 2 - maximum 6 members, who represent at least 2 different UM faculties/service centres.

Proposals can cover a broad range of topics relating to the following aspects of UM education:
- Educational design
- Educational delivery
- Assessment
- Teaching/learning experience

Examples of sub-topics research questions may be related to:

- [CCCS in PBL formats](#)
- PBL & Assessment
- Teaching practice
- Educational culture
- [Global Citizenship Education for Sustainable Development](#)
- New technologies such as AI and VR
- Student engagement
- Advising & mentoring

Deadline: Thursday 28 March 2024, 12:00 CET.

Applications will be assessed by the EDLAB Education Research Sounding Board based on responses provided to questions in the project proposal template.

Results will be communicated in April 2024.

Guidelines for application

Who can apply?

This call is open to all UM academic and support staff, collaborating in teams with a minimum of 2 and a maximum of 6 members. Research team members represent at least 2 different faculties or service centres (e.g., Student Service Centre, Staff Career Centre, University Library, Diversity & Inclusivity Office, Academic Affairs, etc.). There must be one main applicant who is responsible for the project progress, deliverables, financial management, etc. Co-applicants may be (relatively) more experienced in education research than the main applicant; this is to encourage knowledge exchange and the development of mentor-mentee relationships.

Requirements

- One main applicant per proposal.
- One proposal per main applicant.
- The research team consists of the main applicant and at least 1 (and no more than 5) co-applicant(s).
- Research team members represent at least 2 different faculties or service centres (e.g., Student Service Centre, Staff Career Centre, University Library, Diversity & Inclusivity Office, Academic Affairs, etc.).
- Main applicant *cannot* be employed by or affiliated with EDLAB (e.g., member of EDLAB Advisory Board, EDLAB Education Research Sounding Board, or EDLAB Education Research Fellow).
- Main applicant *cannot* be a previous year EDLAB education research grant winner or Learning & Innovation grant winner.
- Co-applicant(s) *may* have won an EDLAB innovation grant (EDUgrant), EDLAB education research grant, and/or Learning & Innovation grant in the past; in this case, the research

questions of the current project must clearly differ from those investigated in the previous project(s).

Selection

Education research proposals will be reviewed by the EDLAB Education Research Sounding Board, consisting of education researchers from all faculties, the EDLAB director and the EDLAB coordinator for education research. 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:

o *Interdisciplinarity*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee holds the right to make a final selection that enables collaboration across more faculties/disciplines/perspectives.

o *Encouragement of staff with minimal prior experience in education research*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee holds the right to make a final selection that advances staff with minimal prior experience in education research. This means that preference will not be given based on either the main applicant's research experience in another discipline, or the lack thereof.

o *Connection with education practice/innovation*
With project proposals of equal quality, the assessment committee holds the right to make a final selection that demonstrates a clear link to education practice/innovation.

Assessment criteria

EDLAB applies the following assessment criteria:

• *Relevance of topic*
The proposal concerns a topic with relevance in the context of both educational theory and practice, and it demonstrates clear added value for UM education.

• *Research questions and study design*
The proposal presents clear and answerable research question(s) grounded in educational literature, which is detailed in a resources list. The proposal describes a clearly defined and well-designed methodological approach, appropriate for addressing the research questions and feasible given the proposed timing and budget. The proposal presents a vision/plan for sustainability beyond the current funding.

• *Quality of the project plan*
The proposal is coherently written and stylistically sound. It presents a project plan, including an overview of deliverables, a timeline, resources, and a simple budget overview.

- *Dissemination and communication*
  Grant recipients are expected to share their project proposal and the project outcomes with the UM research and teaching community. The proposal indicates preferred communication and dissemination formats (e.g., publication in a scientific journal, article in EDLAB magazine edUMinded, blog and/or social media posts, video testimonial, presentation at an EDLAB event such as Research-Meets and Education Days).

- *Professional status and 'about the applicant'*
  The proposal includes a short description of the main applicant's current position, identifying professional activities in relation to education (e.g., teaching, research, advising, support roles), inspiration/motivation for conducting education research, and how the applicant wants to develop themself on the basis of this specific project. Where relevant, the proposal also mentions which of the co-applicants will be participating in a mentoring role.

Grant budget allocation

The proposal can be based on a budget of up to €10.000, -. The money will be transferred to a budget number as communicated by the main applicant. The main applicant is fully and individually responsible for the budget allocation and budget management. Budget can be used for teaching buy-out, reducing tasks, hiring student assistants, using equipment/technology (max. 20%), or ordering catering. EDLAB expects a responsible expenditure of the budget in direct relation to the deliverables and goals of the project proposal. EDLAB welcomes additional matching funds from within the faculty or other UM stakeholders.

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 can record this video with a good phone in a suitable environment. Please stick to a maximum length of 40 seconds and film the video in landscape mode. EDLAB can assist with the video recording if needed, and EDLAB staff will oversee the editing. Please note that the videos will be published on EDLAB's website and shared on social media channels (see this [example video](#) from a previous EDLAB innovation grant winner, which uses the same video concept).
- Present your project and any updates during EDLAB Education Days or other community events/in writing in 2024 -2025
- Present your findings and evaluation of the project during EDLAB Education Days or other EDLAB community events/in writing in 2025

Timeline

Date	Phase
Thursday 1 February 2024	Publication of the call
Late February 2024	Informal network-building event
Early March 2024	Writing an EDLAB grant proposal workshop
Thursday 28 March 2024, 12:00 CET	Application deadline
April 2024	Publication of results and feedback by e-mail
Academic Year 2024-25	Project Period
October 2024	Progress presentation at EDLAB Research-Meet
June 2025	Presentation of results at EDLAB Education Days

Contact

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