

Call 11: Funding Opportunities for Learning and Teaching Innovation

Executive Summary

Imperial's Education Office is coordinating Call 11 for expressions of interest in learning and teaching innovations that have the potential to be scalable and have impact across Imperial. This unified call focuses on three priorities:

- Environmental Sustainability in Education
- AI in Education
- Assessment and Feedback

Funding is seed funding intended to help staff pilot, evaluate, and position projects for wider integration. Proposals should outline plans for long-term sustainability (e.g., future resourcing and scaleup).

- Submission deadline: 12:00pm on 12 February
- Project start date: August 2026
- Completed proposals should be submitted via [Microsoft Form](#).

Background

Imperial's Learning and Teaching Strategy has enabled significant innovation in pedagogies, educational spaces, digital capabilities, and the student experience. Through collaboration with academic departments, faculties, student support teams, and the student body, we continue to identify fresh aims for the next phase of the Strategy. We invite proposals that:

- Enhance pedagogy and educational delivery
- Improve student and staff experience
- Demonstrate a plan for scale and Imperial-wide impact
- Are developed with students as partners

Funding Priorities

Projects should primarily address one of the following priorities, but proposals spanning multiple priorities are encouraged.

1) Environmental Sustainability in Education

Projects may include:

- Projects that aim to deeply integrate a sustainability theme (aligned to the UN Sustainable Development Goals) or UNESCO SDG competency (e.g., systems thinking, anticipatory thinking, collaboration, critical thinking) into disciplinary pedagogies.
- Projects that allow students to develop sustainable ways of engaging with their discipline in the laboratory. This may include creating energy efficient algorithms or processes that only use benign materials and move away from toxic substrates. Focus could be on Imperial lab practice and/or wider themes. These should go beyond recycling and reuse of equipment.
- Development of capstone projects that allow students to make a positive environmental or social impact through the application of their disciplinary science, including interdisciplinary work.

2) AI in Education

Projects may include:

- Integrating AI tools to enhance learning, teaching, or student support (e.g., feedback generation, formative tutoring, accessibility).
- Building on existing Imperial initiatives.
- Measuring the impact of AI on students and staff.
- Going beyond tool pilots to explore curriculum level innovations that foster critical thinking and student agency in an AI rich environment, producing reusable assets designed for scaling across the university.
- AI-enabled assessment design and delivery (e.g., authentic tasks, academic integrity support)
- Use of AI to democratise access to information and widen participation.

3) Assessment and Feedback

Projects may include:

- Developing scalable formative feedback approaches (e.g., dialogic feedback, peer assessment, programmatic assessment).
- Trialling new feedback modalities or turnaround improvements that enhance student engagement and learning.
- Developing systematic approaches to reviewing and rationalising assessment.
- Identifying or investigating innovative solutions to discipline-wide assessment and feedback challenges.
- Working collaboratively with students for a common understanding of assessment & feedback.
- Developing fair and transparent assessment and feedback for all students and how EDI issues interact with assessment and feedback

Governance and Compliance (Digital Tools)

- If your project involves new or materially changed digital teaching, learning, or assessment tools, consult Imperial's Digital Tool guidelines **before** engaging with any new provider to avoid downstream procurement/legal issues and prevent unnecessary tool proliferation:
<https://www.imperial.ac.uk/e-learning/governance/notification-of-new-digital-teaching-learning-and-assessment-requirements/>

- Projects should follow the University policies on data protection, information security, accessibility, and ethical use of technology (including responsible AI).
- Appropriate consideration of ethical approval.

Who Can Apply?

Applications are welcomed from staff across the University and its Faculties, Departments, Institutes, and Teams. We particularly encourage:

- Multidisciplinary and cross-department proposals
- Proposals with University-wide impact and integration with established Imperial projects
- Student partnered proposals (e.g., *via* StudentShapers)

What Can Funding Support?

Seed funding can support the realization of creative new projects by providing resources and freeing up time/space to adapt existing methods or introduce new ones while evaluating effectiveness. Funding may cover:

1. Buyout of existing Imperial staff
2. Fixed term staff to support innovation and expertise in learning and teaching
3. StudentShapers engagements
4. Additional GTAs/UTAs
5. Specific support from centralised teams (e.g., Educational Design and Technology, Digital Media Lab, EdTech Labs, ICT, or other partner departments)

For consistency in recruitment and to attract appropriate skills, exemplar job descriptions and role expectations can be provided by the Education Office.

Further Support for Project Teams

Funded teams will join a multidisciplinary community of staff and students engaged in developing, researching, and evaluating learning and teaching at Imperial and beyond. Support includes:

- Access to expertise and networks across Imperial
- Professional development and networking opportunities through CHERS and the Education Office
- Expectation to take an evidence-based approach and share progress and outcomes

Questions about Call 11 should be directed to:
education.office@imperial.ac.uk