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# CIVIS 4<sup>th</sup> CALL FOR BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMMES (BIPs) October-November 2023



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**CIVIS is a European Civic University** formed by the alliance of 11 leading research higher education institutions across Europe:

- Aix-Marseille Université (France),
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece),
- Université libre de Bruxelles (Belgium),
- University of Bucharest (Romania),
- University of Glasgow (United Kingdom),
- University of Lausanne (Switzerland),
- Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain),
- Sapienza Università di Roma (Italy),
- Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (Austria),
- Stockholm University (Sweden),
- Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany).

For all matters related to the participation of University of Glasgow and University of Lausanne to the CIVIS Blended Intensive Programmes, special regulations and requirements are in place, as it is detailed in the call document.

It brings together a community of around half a million students and more than 70.000 staff members, including 37.400 academics and researchers. CIVIS has a strong civic identity and acts as a role model in the European higher education landscape and defines a path to bring its universities together and to increase the opportunities offered to around half a million students, and 70.000 staff members.

The alliance aims to promote European values, cultures and citizenship among students, academics, and stakeholders and will act as a bridge between Europe, the Mediterranean, and Africa. It aims to be a vector of change and innovation in the following areas:

- Climate, Environment, Energy;
- Society, Culture, Heritage;
- Health;
- Cities, Spaces, Mobility;
- Digital & Technological Transformation.

In the context of its aim to increase mobility among its students and staff members and in view of promoting the values above and cultivating innovation in the mentioned areas, **CIVIS is launching a new call for Blended Intensive Programmes to be designed, submitted, and implemented by the eleven partner universities.**

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# SUMMARY AND SHORT OVERVIEW

# 1. SUMMARY AND SHORT OVERVIEW

This 4<sup>th</sup> CIVIS Call for Blended Intensive Programmes (BIPs) and their implementation during the academic year 2023/2024 concludes the current BIP strategy adopted by the CIVIS Steering Committee in January 2022. The future strategic orientation of the BIP format within CIVIS will be outlined in the “Inter-University Campus Strategy” developed by Stream 2 and the “Description of CIVIS educational offer and academic activities” developed by Stream 3, by 30 June 2023.

Blended Intensive Programmes were introduced as a new mobility format within the Erasmus+ Programme in 2021 and are used by CIVIS to support the development of short term mobilities, in line with the alliance’s new approach on organising and funding educational activities. One of the priorities of the new Erasmus Plus programme is to be more inclusive and make it easier for students, who otherwise would not participate in an exchange for an entire semester, to take advantage of the programme’s opportunities.

**In this regard, programmes must meet Erasmus+ requirements and regulations to be funded, namely:**

- BIPs must include academic staff and student participants from at least **three EU CIVIS member-universities**. **University of Glasgow and University of Lausanne, as well as the African associate partners, can participate, but do not count towards the ‘minimum three partners’ requirement (Erasmus+ criterion).**
- BIPs are designed and implemented in a blended format: **both the virtual and the physical components** are compulsory.
- To receive **organizational support** (OS) funding, the minimum number of participants in a blended intensive programme must be **15 MOBILE students with an Erasmus+ grant** (students from University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, or African partner universities are not counted towards this minimum number, but they can receive funding from their own institution). Also, local students and teaching / training staff involved in the delivery of the programme are not counted to this minimum number.
- The coordinating institution applies for OS funds for the BIP. This is done by the Erasmus Offices of each university each year in advance.
- The OS funds for each BIP can range between **6.000 EUR and 8.000 EUR**, based on the number of mobile students (**15 to 20 students**). The maximum level of OS funds can be 8.000 EUR, even if the number of mobile students is above 20. The allocation and distribution of OS funds is done by the Erasmus Office of the organising university.
- EU CIVIS universities that send their students to the physical mobility component must use their **own Erasmus KA1<sup>31</sup>** funds for the mobility of their students. Non-EU universities will use their own funds and processes to support student mobility.
- Academics who co-teach during the physical part of the BIP will be funded through **“Teaching Staff Mobility” (STA)** funds by their home university. They are required to **teach a minimum of 8 hours** during the physical mobility component of the programme to be eligible for Erasmus+ funding. Non-EU universities will use their own funds and processes to support staff mobility; the minimum teaching requirement may be different, depending on sending the university’s rules.
- The BIP should award **at least 3 ECTS credit points and up to 9 ECTS credit points**. A clear division of the learning outcomes for each ECTS credit point is required, especially for BIPs ranging from 7 ECTS credit points to 9 ECTS credit points, supporting learning recognition in CIVIS universities.

- The **physical mobility component** of the BIP must include **5 days of activities** for the BIP participants.
- An applicant / academic team can apply only once with the same BIP (with the same title, learning outcomes and partnership composition) per academic year and per Erasmus+ call. Applicants are required to check with their local Erasmus+ Office prior to submitting their application.

A very important new component of the present call for BIPs is represented by the possibility **to include academics (teaching staff) from the CIVIS African and Mediterranean partner universities.**

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# DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL



## 2. DESCRIPTION OF THE CALL

### Purpose - Aims

As stated in the Erasmus+ Program 2021-2027 Higher Education Mobility Handbook (p. 7)<sup>1</sup>:

*“Blended intensive programmes aim to open up more opportunities for learners to take part in blended mobilities. They will foster the development of transnational and transdisciplinary curricula, as well as innovative ways of learning and teaching, including online collaboration, research-based learning, and challenge-based approaches in order to tackle societal challenges. BIPs can be part of the HEIs’ curricula or complementary to them. They can be an entirely new programme or they can be an enhancement of an existing programme with additional features such as the delivery mode in a blended format. In addition, BIPs can be a good opportunity to reach out to new groups of students, for example those in study fields where mobility opportunities have been limited or those who lack confidence to go abroad alone, potentially paving the way for their participation in long-term individual mobility later in their studies”.*

### Organiser(s): Roles in a Blended Intensive Programme Partnership

#### Coordinating University

A CIVIS University, awarded with an Erasmus Charter for Higher Education (ECHE), coordinates the organization of the blended intensive programme, receiving and managing the organizational support. University of Glasgow and University of Lausanne can also coordinate CIVIS BIPs with their own funds (please refer to [civis@unil.ch](mailto:civis@unil.ch) or [civis@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:civis@glasgow.ac.uk) if this case arises). The coordinating university is generally the receiving (host) university for the physical mobility component of the BIP, but it can be decided otherwise by the programme’s partnership. A change in the coordinating CIVIS University is possible after the evaluation of the application, in case the approved BIPs of the University have already been allocated. Before each CIVIS Call for BIPs, all CIVIS universities must declare the number of BIPs they will reserve for CIVIS Alliance.

#### Receiving (Hosting) University

A CIVIS University, receives the BIP participants either at its premises or at a different venue / hosting organization in the same country in which it is located. The receiving university must be part of the blended intensive programme partnership. The coordinating university is generally the receiving (host) university for the physical mobility component of the BIP, but it can be decided otherwise by the programme’s partnership. All CIVIS universities, including the University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, and the African partner universities can host the physical component of the CIVIS BIPs.

#### Sending University

All CIVIS Universities can send BIP participants, however mobility costs of BIP participants of the University of Glasgow and the University of Lausanne cannot be funded by Erasmus+. It can be expected that most participants come from sending universities which are part of the BIP partnership, but it is not mandatory. Invited staff can come from any organization in Programme Countries. The coordinating institution can be a sending institution too if the venue of the activity is in another country.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://wikis.ec.europa.eu/display/NAITDOC/Higher+Education+Mobility+Handbook>

## Duration

- Duration of the physical mobility component of the BIP must include **5 days of activities** for the BIP participants.
- The virtual component must bring the learners together online to work collectively and simultaneously on specific assignments that are integrated in the blended intensive programme and count towards the overall learning outcomes. The virtual component can represent **any volume of virtual learning** and take place before or after the physical mobility.
- The overall duration of the BIP must be coherent with the total student workload proposed for the activities, in close connection with the number of ECTS credit points, as can be seen below.

## Implementation Calendar (for BIPs taking place during academic year 2024/25)

To ensure adequate promotion and smooth administrative students mobility management & enrolment, CIVIS BIPs will be implemented according to the following calendar:

Application period for BIP projects	16 October - 30 November 2023
Selection of BIPs by CIVIS HUBs (supported by Education Unit & Mobility Unit)	1 December 2023 - 15 January 2024
Validation of selected BIPs by CIVIS Steering Committee	End of January 2024
Application period for students	15 March – 30 April 2024
Selection of students by Erasmus+ Offices and BIP Coordinators	1 May - 15 June 2024
Earliest starting date for virtual component	from 1 October 2024
Earliest starting date for physical component	from 1 November 2024
Latest eligible date for BIP implementation	31 March 2025

## Theme

The **Blended Intensive Programme** should include, where possible, themes not only relevant for the European context, but also for the African and/or the Mediterranean Areas, especially if members from CIVIS African partner universities are included in a BIP partnership. **The BIP proposal must tackle one or more focus areas identified by the Hubs Councils.**

### HUB1: Climate, Environment, Energy

HUB1 initiatives will be organized into a framework which is partly based on focal challenges defined by Future Earth<sup>2</sup>. This framework encompasses research-oriented education and knowledge-action education pathways that target the following focal challenges:

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<sup>2</sup> [https://futureearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/future-earth\\_10-year-vision\\_web.pdf](https://futureearth.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/future-earth_10-year-vision_web.pdf)

- Deliver energy, water, and food for all.
- Decarbonise socio-economic systems to stabilise the climate.
- Safeguard the terrestrial, freshwater, and marine natural assets.
- Increase resilience and promote sustainable transformations.
- Create fundamental knowledge about climate, environment, and energy.

## **HUB2: Society, Culture, Heritage**

HUB2 initiatives will be organized within the framework of the following focus areas:

- Mediterranean Studies: Diachronic and Intercultural Perspectives.
- Heritage and Global Epistemologies.
- Diverse Societies, Inequality, and Social Change.
- Multicultural and Multilingual Communication and Education.
- Law, Norms, Ethics, and Political Institutions.

## **HUB3: Health**

HUB3 activities should be related to one or more of the following domains, as defined by the CIVIS HUB3 Council:

- Aging and geriatric medicine.
- Anaesthesiology, pain management, and critical care medicine.
- Biochemistry and genetics, medical biotechnologies, diagnostics, gene therapy, and bioinformatics.
- Diagnostic imaging, biomedical engineering, robotics in medicine, new medical devices, and digital health.
- Mental health, psychology, psychiatry, drug/alcohol addiction, eating disorders.
- Cancer medicine, immunology, and immunotherapies.
- Cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, and metabolic diseases.
- Chronic inflammatory and autoimmune diseases.
- Endocrinology, urology, reproductive and sexual health.
- Gastroenterology, hepatology, and micro-bioresearch.
- Health economics and healthcare management.
- Immunity, infectious diseases, microbiology, public and global health, environmental health.
- Medical humanities and innovative pedagogies.
- Neonate and children Health.
- Neurophysiology, neuroscience, and neurodegenerative diseases.
- Nursing, physical medicine, rehabilitation, disabilities, motor sciences, anatomy, and physiology.
- Oral health.
- Pharmacy, pharmacology, nutrition, nanoscience, and nanoformulations.

## **HUB4: Cities, Spaces, Mobility**

HUB4 initiatives should address issues that are consistent with a framework that is partly based on actions defined by the EU Urban Agenda<sup>3</sup>:

- Climate and environmental challenges for cities.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://futurium.ec.europa.eu/en/urban-agenda/action-plans>

- Social and employment challenges.
- Resilient and sustainable urban economies.
- Historical, landscape and architectural urban issues.
- Governing the cities.

### **HUB5: Digital & Technological Transformation**

HUB5 should provide an infrastructure for ethical oversight and discussion of the social challenges posed by digital and technological transformations. HUB5 is aiming to produce coherent educational streams that explore and advance the implementation of digital technologies in different areas of life (work, commerce, education, governance, etc.), to deepen the understanding of how digital technologies are incorporated into cultural processes and transformations, and to create a space that facilitates a "critical gaze," on the social impact of digital technologies and transformations in society. Hub 5 initiatives will be organized within the framework of the following focus areas:

- Open science.
- Artificial Intelligence, Machine learning, Robotics.
- Ethics and power, digital divides, inclusion (equity).
- Data science and democracy.
- Public space.
- Personal and professional development (skills, career, personal development).
- Higher education and digital transformation, Innovative pedagogies.
- Environment and sustainability.
- Health and well-being.

### **Programme: elements of good practice**

- BIPs should provide an added value in comparison to other programmes or courses, through some innovative approaches such as:
  - specialized content not taught elsewhere;
  - **transnational and transdisciplinary curricula;**
  - **innovative** ways of teaching and learning;
  - **research-based** education;
  - **challenge-based** approaches that tackle **societal challenges;**
  - modern approaches to learning through **physical and virtual mobility.**
- They may allow the teaching staff to exchange views on teaching content and new curricular approaches, to test innovative teaching methods that could eventually become part of a newly devised joint course or curriculum in an international classroom environment.
- The ratio of teaching/training staff to students/learners should guarantee active classroom participation.
- In addition to the learning outcomes on subject-related competences, a BIP should also support the development of transversal competences.
- The **number of teaching hours must ensure** that most of the time spent abroad is related to education and training, and not to research or any other activity.
- The programme is encouraged to include, when possible, guest speakers from government departments, non-governmental organizations, local, regional, or national representatives, decision or policy makers, the labour market representatives and civil society to present their views on relevant issues.

- Assessment is mandatory, validating the acquired learning outcomes/competences, and must be included in the programme description (the exact method(s) of assessment must be defined in the application).
- After the implementation of the BIP, programme coordinators must prepare a short reporting (based on a template provided by the CIVIS Education Unit & CIVIS Quality Officer), including aspects such as the overall implementation of the planned activities, participation rate, and other details related to the implementation of the BIP.

## Staff Participants: profiles and required number

Participants involved in delivering the programme can be academics and other teaching or training staff from any of the 11 CIVIS universities, as well as from the CIVIS African partner universities. These participants will be involved in the teaching components of the BIP, and can be any of the following:

- **Local staff:** academics / teaching / training staff members from the receiving (hosting) university.
- **Visiting staff:** academics / teaching / training staff members who are incoming staff from other CIVIS universities (except the hosting university) or from other programme countries and partner countries. The visiting staff will be funded through “**Teaching Staff Mobility**” (STA) funds by their home university. They are required to **teach a minimum of 8 hours** during the physical mobility component of the programme to be eligible for Erasmus+ funding. Non-EU universities will use their own funds and processes to support staff mobility; the minimum teaching requirement may be different, depending on sending the university’s rules.
- **Guest speakers /teachers** from non-HEI organizations such as industry, associations, or research institutes (e.g., local stakeholders). The organising / hosting university will use their own funds and processes to support the participation of the guest speakers, based on their internal regulations.

## Student participants: profiles and required number

Profile of participants engaged in the BIP learning activities:

- Any student enrolled in one of the 11 CIVIS universities or CIVIS African partner universities.
- Any student at Bachelor, Master, or Doctoral Programme level, provided they are enrolled at their home university throughout the entire period of the BIP.
- Any student who meets entry criteria as defined by the BIP coordinators. Detailed participant profile, related to the level and field of study, or other specific characteristics, will be defined for each BIP.

For administrative purposes, there are three types of student participants, as follows:

- **Local students:** students enrolled at the hosting university. Local students are not considered mobile students (as they do not receive an Erasmus+ grant), so they are not counted towards the minimum number of mobile students needed for Erasmus+ funding of the BIP, based on the regulations of the Erasmus+ Programme.

- **Visiting students:** students enrolled at any EU CIVIS university and that are engaged in a physical mobility to another university (the hosting university) during the BIP. These students are counted towards the minimum number of students needed for Erasmus+ BIP funding. Due to possible cancellations / drop-outs, BIP coordinators should consider selecting additional visiting students in the selection process than the minimum number. We recommend BIP coordinators to select at least 25-30 visiting students.
- **Students from the University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, and the CIVIS African partner universities** can participate in CIVIS BIPs, but do not count towards the minimum number of mobile students needed for Erasmus+ BIP funding.

## Number of student participants

- The minimum number of participants in a BIP, and necessary for receiving the OS funds, is **15 MOBILE students with and Erasmus+ grant, based on the regulations of the Erasmus+ Programme**. This does not include the academics / teaching / training staff involved in the delivery of the programme.
- Students from the University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, and the CIVIS African partner universities can participate in CIVIS BIPs, but do not count towards the minimum number of mobile students needed for Erasmus+ BIP funding, as they do not receive an Erasmus+ grant. Non-EU CIVIS universities will use their own funds and processes to support student mobility.
- Programme coordinators are encouraged to consider a larger number of mobile participants during the selection process (**at least 25-30 visiting students**), as well as a reserve list, to mitigate risks linked to possible drop-outs or cancellations. For the same reason, participating EU CIVIS universities should plan to send a sufficient number of participants in order to ensure the programmes reach the minimum requirements.
- There is no maximum limit related to the number of students participating in the programme. The proposed maximum number is set by the programme coordinators in the BIP proposal, considering logistical, teaching, and financial constraints.
- Local students from the receiving (hosting) institution are encouraged to take part in the programme, but are not eligible for an Erasmus+ grant, as they do not take part in a physical mobility abroad. Students from the receiving (hosting) institution do not count towards the minimum of 15 mobile participants with an Erasmus+ grant.
- While there is no maximum participation in terms of learners, programme coordinators must always consider the efficiency of teaching and learning practices, as well as the organization of the programme, when designing the BIP proposal.

## ECTS credit points

- Upon successful graduation from a BIP, students receive **between 3 to 9 ECTS credit points** from the coordinating university. Any form of recognition is fully dependent on the students' home institution's regulations in place.
- A clear **division of the learning outcomes for each ECTS credit point** (based on calculated workload) is required, especially for BIPs ranging from 7 ECTS credit points to 9 ECTS credit points, supporting learning recognition for students from CIVIS universities.
- A **Learning Agreement** must be signed before the mobility in order plan for a possible recognition upon successful graduation.

- The exact number of ECTS credit points is defined by the BIP coordinators based on the calendar and duration of the proposed activities, **corresponding to the total amount of workload** for students to attend and finish the programme (workload for virtual component + workload for the physical component).
- Based on the ECTS User's Guide (2015, p. 10), ECTS credit points must be linked with the total number of hours dedicated by the student to participate in the programme expressed as workload (1 ECTS = 25-30 hours of student workload). The workload amount represents the sum of the following components:
  - Number of hours guided by academics / teaching / training staff (such as, but not limited to, face to face / online / synchronous lectures, field learning, supervised assessment, etc.).
  - Number of hours of individual work conducted by the students (such as, but not limited to, independent study time (mandatory bibliography, pre-recorded lectures, lecture materials and class notes, other resources), research, projects, homework, etc.).
- For credits to be transferred, participating students must receive a **Transcript of Records** or similar (signed by the coordinating university) clearly stating the number of ECTS credit points awarded to the students. The Transcript of Records is issued at the end of the BIP (including both components), recording the learning experience of the student across the entire duration of the programme.
- As a soft recommendation, at least 30% of the proposed total number of hours of the BIP can represent activities guided by academics / teaching / training staff, as direct interaction (face-to-face or online) with the participants, the difference being represented by individual work conducted by the students.
- **Assessment of the acquired competencies / learning outcomes is mandatory** and must be included in the programme. The assessment method(s) will be described by the BIP coordinator(s) in the application. Assessment must be conducted / evaluated by the academics / teaching / training staff involved in the delivery of the BIP, under the supervision of the BIP coordinator(s).

## Language of instruction

The main suggested language of instruction for BIPs is **English**, but BIPs can be designed and delivered in any of the other languages of the CIVIS universities (**DE | EL | ES | FR | IT | RO | SV**). With eight languages spoken in the alliance, CIVIS invests in linguistic diversity, a key issue in the globalization process. CIVIS Alliance aims at enabling by 2025 most of our students, researchers, and staff to master at least two foreign languages beside their mother tongue after completing their training at a CIVIS university. Therefore, programmes in any of the CIVIS member-universities' languages are eligible.

## Organizational Support (OS) funds

- The minimum number of Erasmus+ funded mobile participants in a BIP is 15 (not including academics / teaching / training staff involved in the delivery of the programme) for the programme to be eligible for funding. The OS funding is calculated on a basis of 400 EUR per mobile participant and can range **between 6.000 EUR to 8.000 EUR** (the funding is capped at 20 mobile participants).
- The number of mobile participants with an Erasmus+ grant can be above 20, but the OS funds are capped at a maximum amount of 8.000 EUR.

- OS funds are intended to cover costs related to the preparation, design, development, implementation, and follow-up and reporting of the programme and delivery of virtual / remote activities, as well as the overall management and coordination of the programme. Costs may include items such as (but not exhaustively): production of documents or educational material, rental of rooms, rental of equipment, services for meetings and activities, field trips, excursions, communication activities, translation and interpretation, preparatory visits, and administrative tasks. The type of costs may vary between CIVIS universities and programme coordinators must consult with the Erasmus+ Offices on the list of eligible costs provisioned by their respective university and the national regulations.
- The coordinating CIVIS university is responsible for sharing the OS funds among the BIP partnership, based on the proposal of the BIP coordinator(s).
- As the coordinating CIVIS university receives the OS funds for organizing the BIP, tuition / course fees are strictly forbidden and cannot be requested from participants.

## Mobility Costs: EU CIVIS Universities

### Individual support for participants

- Students and academics / teaching / training staff will be funded through Erasmus+ funds of the respective sending universities.
- Academics / teaching / training staff will be funded through “Teaching Staff Mobility” (STA) funds by their home university. They are required to **teach a minimum of 8 hours** during the physical mobility component of the programme to be eligible for Erasmus+ funding.
- Each Erasmus+ funded mobile participant must receive a mobility grant from the sending university, based on the Erasmus+ regulations and the institutional practices in place. Individual support is of **70/79 EUR<sup>4</sup> per day for students**. Individual support for academics / teaching / training staff depends on the hosting country.
- The individual support **covers 2 travel days** (one travel day before the activity physical component of the BIP and one travel day after). Students who opt for a green travel will receive a single contribution of 50 EUR as a top-up amount to the individual support and up to 4 days of additional individual support to cover travel days for a return trip, if relevant.
- Students with fewer opportunities can receive a top-up amount of 100 EUR to the individual support of their EU Erasmus+ grant. Such situations will be analysed by the Erasmus+ Office of the sending university, on a case-by-case approach.

### Travel for participants

Mobility grants will be provided only for academics / teaching / training staff and the students with fewer opportunities, funded through the Erasmus+ funds of the sending university. The amount received by academics / teaching / training staff and students with fewer opportunities is calculated according to the table below:

Travel distances <sup>5</sup>	In case of standard travel	In case of green travel
Between 10 and 99 KM:	23 EUR per participant	

<sup>4</sup> The Erasmus + Call for 2023 intends an increase to 79 EUR per day for students. The amount depends on each CIVIS university.

<sup>5</sup> <https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/resources-and-tools/distance-calculator>



Between 100 and 499 KM:	180 EUR per participant	210 EUR per participant
Between 500 and 1999 KM:	275 EUR per participant	320 EUR per participant
Between 2000 and 2999 KM:	360 EUR per participant	410 EUR per participant
Between 3000 and 3999 KM:	530 EUR per participant	610 EUR per participant
Between 4000 and 7999 KM:	820 EUR per participant	
8000 KM or more:	1500 EUR per participant	

## Mobility Costs: Non-EU CIVIS Universities

The University of Glasgow and the University of Lausanne cannot access the Erasmus+ budget for BIPs. However, these universities are invited and encouraged to participate in all CIVIS initiatives and actions. There are specific funding options for CIVIS BIPs in place for the participation of non-EU CIVIS Universities. African partner universities are also invited and encouraged to participate. If available, they can access special Erasmus+ funding lines (see below).

### University of Glasgow

The University of Glasgow has a dedicated budget for participation in CIVIS activities, including the CIVIS BIPs, and possible support is mirrored on that provided by Erasmus+ funding options. Staff and students are invited to contact the CIVIS Team of the University of Glasgow, at [civis@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:civis@glasgow.ac.uk), with any enquiry about funding.

### University of Lausanne

The University of Lausanne combines a dedicated budget for participation in CIVIS activities and funding from the SEMP programme, where possible. The funding mirrors the one provided by Erasmus+ funding option. Staff and students are invited to contact the CIVIS Team at the University of Lausanne, at [civis@unil.ch](mailto:civis@unil.ch), for institutional support for participation in CIVIS BIPs.

### CIVIS African partner universities

Outside the formal Erasmus+ framework for BIPs, CIVIS encourages the inclusion of members from the six strategic partner institutions in the BIPs' academic teams:

- Université Hassan II de Casablanca (Morocco)
- Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal)
- University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (South Africa)
- Makerere University, Kampala (Uganda)
- Eduardo Mondlane University, Maputo (Mozambique)
- Université de Sfax (Tunisia)

Applicant teams can apply to their respective Erasmus+ Office for additional Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility (ICM) funds for enabling the participation of students and staff members in the physical component at the receiving (hosting) CIVIS university. Please note: this option only applies if the CIVIS university at which the physical component takes place has ICM1 funds available dedicated for mobility from the African partner university. Check <https://airtable.com/shrAnhWRc3jL3c5JN> for an overview on which CIVIS universities have such funding available for which African partner institutions (table subject to changes/updates).

Please, in any case, **contact and inform Christian Möllmann**, CIVIS Global Partnership Officer ([christian.moellmann@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:christian.moellmann@uni-tuebingen.de)), when you plan to cooperate with one of our African partner universities.

African partner universities can be included in the BIP proposal application. In case the participation of academics / teaching / training staff can be funded by the hosting CIVIS university, BIP team members joining in this way must follow the administrative procedures for an Erasmus+ ICM mobility. Rates for covered travel costs and subsistence differ between countries.

Students from CIVIS African partner universities can be considered for participation in BIP, but they are not eligible for Erasmus+ financial support. CIVIS and its partners are currently exploring ways to provide additional support in the future. These students do not count towards the minimum of 15 mobile participants, since their universities are not from Erasmus+ partner countries.

### Other third parties' participation

While the participation of additional participants coming from other HEIs from partner countries is possible for CIVIS BIPs, these participants are not eligible for Erasmus+ funding and are not counted towards the minimum of 15 mobile participants.

### Contacts for CIVIS BIPs

General CIVIS BIP contact point: [bip@lists.civis.eu](mailto:bip@lists.civis.eu).

### Contacts for CIVIS BIPs in CIVIS Universities



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SU page on CIVIS BIPs <https://www.su.se/staff/services/internationalisation/blended-intensive-programs-bip-in-civis-1.610335>

## Selection Procedure

Before submitting BIP proposals, BIP coordinators must ensure they have **the approval of the Coordinating University (Faculty / Department / School and Erasmus+ Office)**, as seen in the **Letter of Intent** document included in the call. The letter must be submitted with the BIP application and is part of the selection procedure. For the institutional validation, applicants must contact the member of the **Education Unit** from their respective university (please check with your CIVIS Institutional Coordinator for support and relevant contact).

The BIP proposals will be evaluated by the CIVIS HUB Councils, with support provided by the Education Unit and the Mobility Unit, according to the following criteria:

- Geographical balance (inclusion of team members from African partner countries is considered an advantage)
- Project relevance
- Quality of learning content
- Sustainability of the project

After the HUBs' selection, CIVIS Mobility Offices will prepare the list of approved projects, ensuring as much as possible equal allocation of programmes' coordination to the institutions, also based on the availability of funds.

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# GENERAL ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

<p><b>Who can apply?</b></p>	<p>Any academics / teaching / training staff member of a CIVIS university.</p> <p>The Blended Intensive Programme (BIP) must be supported by the Head of the Faculty / School / Department and validated by the Erasmus+ Office of the coordinating institution (proved by the signed Letter of Intent). The content of the application must be approved by the BIP partnership before being submitted.</p>
<p><b>Eligible partners</b></p>	<p>At least 3 CIVIS alliance Universities (considering geographical balance) or more:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aix-Marseille Université (France),</li> <li>• National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece),</li> <li>• University of Bucharest (Romania),</li> <li>• Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium),</li> <li>• Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain),</li> <li>• Sapienza Università di Roma (Italia),</li> <li>• Stockholm University (Sweden)</li> <li>• Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany)</li> <li>• Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg (Austria)</li> </ul> <p><i>The University of Glasgow, University of Lausanne, and the CIVIS African partner universities can take part in the design and delivery of a BIP if there are 3 partners or more.</i></p>
<p><b>Themes of the BIP</b></p>	<p>The BIP should be related to one of the 5 HUB themes of the Alliance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate, Environment, Energy</li> <li>• Society, Culture, Heritage</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Cities, Territories, Mobility</li> <li>• Digital &amp; Technological Transformation</li> </ul> <p>Include, where possible, themes not only relevant for Europe, but also for Africa and/or the Mediterranean Area, especially if members from CIVIS's African partner universities are included in a BIP partnership. The extended list of all subthemes and topics for each of the HUB can be found at page 10 of the present call.</p>
<p><b>Content of the BIP / Elements of good practice</b></p>	<p>BIPs should have an added value compared to existing programmes or courses, through some innovative approaches such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• specialized content not taught somewhere else;</li> <li>• <b>transnational</b> and <b>transdisciplinary curricula</b>;</li> <li>• <b>innovative</b> ways of teaching and learning;</li> <li>• <b>research-based</b> education;</li> <li>• <b>challenge-based</b> approaches that tackle <b>societal challenges</b>;</li> <li>• modern approaches to learning through <b>physical and virtual mobility</b>.</li> </ul> <p>They can allow the teaching staff to exchange views on teaching content and new curricular approaches, to test innovative teaching methods that could eventually become part of a newly devised joint course or curriculum in an international classroom environment. The ratio of teaching / training staff to students / learners should guarantee active classroom participation. In addition to the learning outcomes on subject-related competences, it should help develop transversal competences. The <b>number of teaching hours must ensure</b> that most of the time spent abroad is related to education and training, and not to research or any other activity.</p> <p>To mitigate against the risk to funding due to insufficient number of qualifying students, and address possible cancellations / drop-outs, participating institutions should plan to send a minimum core number of students to ensure the programmes reach the minimum required number of participants.</p>

	<p>The programme should include, when possible, guest speakers from government departments, non-governmental organizations, local, regional, or national representatives, decision or policy makers, private sector, and civil society representatives to present their views on relevant issues.</p> <p>Assessment is mandatory, validating the acquired learning outcomes / competences, and must be included in the programme description (the exact method(s) of assessment must be defined in the application).</p>
<b>ECTS credit points</b>	<p>Upon successful graduation from a BIP, students should receive <b>between 3 and 9 ECTS credit points</b> by the coordinating university. A clear division of the learning outcomes for each ECTS credit point (based on calculated workload) is required, especially for BIPs ranging from 7 ECTS credit points to 9 ECTS credit points, supporting learning recognition for students from CIVIS universities.</p>
<b>Duration of the BIP</b>	<p><b>Physical mobility</b> component of the BIP: <b>5 days</b>.</p> <p>While there is no predefined duration of the <b>virtual component</b>, attendance is compulsory for both the physical and virtual components. The virtual component must bring the learners together online to work collectively and simultaneously on specific assignments that are integrated in the blended intensive programme and count towards the overall learning outcomes.</p>
<b>Language of the BIP</b>	<p>The main suggested language of instruction for BIPs is <b>English</b>, but BIPs can be designed and delivered in any of the other languages of the CIVIS universities (<b>DE   EL   ES   FR   IT   RO   SV</b>).</p>

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# EVALUATION / SELECTION CRITERIA



<p><b>CRITERION A:</b> <b>Geographical balance</b> <b>Max. points: 15</b></p>	<p><b>Number of CIVIS partners involved:</b></p> <p>1 point for each CIVIS member-universities &amp; associated African partners involved.</p> <p>The proposal could involve CIVIS African partners and University of Glasgow and University of Lausanne (i.e., invite students or professors). N.B. the mobility of those participants cannot be financed by this call.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aix-Marseille Université (France),</li> <li>• National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (Greece),</li> <li>• University of Bucharest (Romania),</li> <li>• Université Libre de Bruxelles (Belgium),</li> <li>• Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain),</li> <li>• Sapienza Università di Roma (Italia),</li> <li>• Stockholm University (Sweden)</li> <li>• Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen (Germany)</li> <li>• Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg (Austria)</li> <li>• University of Glasgow (UK)</li> <li>• University of Lausanne (Switzerland)</li> <li>• Université Hassan II de Casablanca (Morocco)</li> <li>• Université Cheikh Anta Diop de Dakar (Senegal)</li> <li>• Eduardo Mondlane University (Mozambique)</li> <li>• Makerere University (Uganda)</li> <li>• University of Sfax (Tunisia)</li> <li>• University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa)</li> </ul>
<p><b>CRITERION B:</b> <b>Relevance of the project</b> <b>Max. points: 50</b></p>	<p><b>The proposal should be relevant to one of the 5 Hubs of the Alliance:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate, Environment, Energy</li> <li>• Society, Culture, Heritage,</li> <li>• Health</li> <li>• Cities, Territories, Mobility</li> <li>• Digital &amp; Technological Transformation</li> </ul> <p>Include, where possible, themes not only relevant for Europe, but also for Africa and/or the Mediterranean Area, especially if members from CIVIS’s African partner universities are included in a BIP partnership. The extended list of all subthemes and topics for each of the HUB can be found at page 10 of the present call.</p>
<p><b>CRITERION C: Quality of learning activities</b> <b>Max. 25 points</b></p>	<p><b>Interdisciplinarity &amp; co-construction:</b></p> <p>The proposal should adopt an interdisciplinary approach (i.e., by also inviting academics and students from different scientific fields to participate) and involve relevant external stakeholders. The proposal should have a student-centred and problem-based approach (active/collective learning, self-directed education with a strong link to society).</p>
<p><b>CRITERION D: sustainability of the project</b> <b>Max 10 points.</b></p>	<p><b>Sustainability of the proposed activities (10 points):</b></p> <p>Each proposal can be proposed for 1 or more editions. The proposal should be possible to integrate in the regular education offerings at the involved universities.</p>

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# APPLICATION FORM

**The application deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**To apply, visit this page and fill in the online application form:**

**[https://civis.smapply.io/prog/blended intensive programs - fourth call for proposals/](https://civis.smapply.io/prog/blended_intensive_programs_-_fourth_call_for_proposals/)**