

EUniWell

1st Call for COIL

FAQ



Q. Do I need to speak my partner's language?

A. No. Most COILs run in English as a working language, but this is a choice you and your partner make together – some COILs successfully use two languages, with students working in mixed-language teams as part of the learning experience.

Q. How much of my course does a COIL need to take up?

A. As little as two to three weeks of a single assignment, or as much as a full semester. Many first-time COIL teachers deliberately start small.

Q. Does the collaboration have to be graded?

A. Not necessarily, but some form of recognition (even a participation mark, or credit toward a larger assignment) usually improves student engagement. Agree the approach with your partner before the course starts.

Q. What if my partner's semester dates don't match mine?

A. Full overlap is not required – many COILs run during the weeks that do overlap, with the rest of each course continuing independently.

Q. How many students can take part?

A. COIL works with any class size, but smaller sub-groups (3–5 students, mixed across institutions) generally produce better collaboration than large plenary exchanges.

Q. Which tools should we use?

A. Whatever both institutions can access reliably: a shared video-conferencing tool, a common or linked LMS space (such as Ilias, EUniWell LMS), and simple asynchronous tools (shared documents for example using EUniWell cloud, a discussion board...). An introduction to EUniWell IT tools can be organized by EUniWell upon request. Agree this with your partner and check licensing/GDPR constraints (see below).

Q. Is COIL only for certain disciplines?

A. No – COIL has been used across humanities, sciences, engineering, business, health and the arts. The common ingredient is a task that genuinely benefits from a comparative or cross-cultural perspective.

Q. What about data protection and recordings?

A. Check your institution's GDPR guidance before choosing tools, particularly if sessions are recorded or if student work is shared on a platform hosted outside the EU. When in doubt, ask your Data Protection Officer.

Q. What happens if the partnership doesn't work out this year?

A. That is a valid, common outcome. Report it. The experience still has value, and EUniWell Centre for Learning can help you find another partner for the next round.

Q. Can a COIL lead to something bigger?

A. Yes – COILs are often a first step towards a joint course, a Blended Intensive Programme (BIP), an Intercampus Seminar or a joint degree. Several EUniWell joint study programmes originated from smaller pilot collaborations between academic teams.

Q. Can I do a COIL with more than one partner?

A. Yes – although it is recommended to begin with a simple bilateral project as a start.

Q. Who can help me if I get stuck?

A. [EUniWell Local Teams](#) and your institution's International Relations Office are your first points of contact.

Q. My class starts in the fall term can I still apply to the matchmaking?

A. Yes – COILs are long term projects, as a few months are often needed to prepare, you can use that extra time to plan.

Q. I would like to work with a non EUniWell institution, what should I do?

A. You can contact your [EUniWell local teams](#) to check how to proceed.

Q. What kind of support can I expect from EUniWell? Can I get financial support to implement my activities?

A. There is no dedicated funding as such, but EUniWell has worked on a dedicated [COIL Handbook](#) and will provide a first introductory session to get started. Also, some institutions can have dedicated funding schemes to support COIL. You can contact your [EUniWell Institutional Coordinator](#) to get more information.