

VERSION ADAPTED FOR PROCEDURE AND TIMEFRAME BETA

1. EDUCATION IMPACT AWARD

1.1. BACKGROUND

- The Education Impact Award is designed to encourage (interdisciplinary or trans-faculty) teaching teams that are developing or have developed an initiative that focuses on improving student learning to continue and be highlighted. If the initiative reinforces the implementation of the Institutional Plan by focusing on (1) sustainability, (2) diversity & inclusion, (3) transformative learning, (4) learning with new technology, it will earn plus points.
- Only an initiative that has already been tried in practice (a pilot is enough) is eligible for the Education Impact Award.
- The Education Impact Award jury will select **two winning teams**.

1.2. GAME RULES

From the winners we ask the following:

- To spend the prize money entirely on the initiative.
- Upon completion of the project, an account of the implementation of the project will be delivered for approval by the rector.
- The winning teams will present their initiative to a wide audience at least 2 times within a year (e.g. VU Education Day and other education related events such as KnowVU meetings, Educational Leadership Course (LOL), Senior Qualification Education (SKO) or faculty education days).

1.3. FORMAT & CRITERIA.

To be considered for the award, we ask that you submit a description of your initiative.

**VU Education Impact Award:
2025/2026 form**

General Information.

Name of lead applicant:

Position:

Faculty(s):

Department(s):

E-mail:

Name of co-applicant:

Function:

Faculty(s):

Department(s):

E-mail:

Optional

Name of potential co-applicant

Position:

Faculty(s):

Department(s):

E-mail:

Title of your initiative

Describe your initiative

(Max 300 words)

How does your initiative contribute to improving student learning?

(Max 300 words)

How is your team composed and what makes it the ideal team?

(Max 200 words)

With whom and where and/or how will you share the experiences you have gained?

(Max 200 words)

How do you plan to spend the money?

Budget

Please provide a schedule below that includes key milestones

Planning

EXTRA: To what extent does your initiative align with the VU themes ((1) sustainability, (2) diversity & inclusion, (3) transformative learning, (4) learning with new technology) and how is that reflected?

(Max 200 words)

Save this form as a .pdf and send it to ctlrecognize@vu.nl

Proposals submitted will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- The extent to which the initiative contributes to strengthening the learning process
- The extent to which the initiative is innovative within the existing context

Clarification: this refers to the extent to which the educational team steps outside the usual way of working in its own domain with the innovation.

- Plus points: the extent to which the initiative is consistent with advancing education at VU.
- The degree of diversity within the teaching team.

1.4. PROCEDURE & TIMEFRAME – BETA SPECIFIC

In order to streamline nominations within BETA, the procedure and timeline below has been established. The mentioned deadlines thus deviate from what may be disseminated by central level (e.g. via newsletters or VUweb).

Nomination by programmes to BETA faculty board (hereafter BETA FB)

Teacher teams wishing to submit a project proposal for the Education Impact Award can be nominated to the BETA FB through the BETA Education Policy Team (onderwijsbeleid.beta@vu.nl).

From the nominated BETA teacher teams, one team will then be selected and nominated by the Faculty Board.

The nomination includes at least:

1. A fully completed proposal (Format for submitting a proposal for the 2025-2026 Education Impact Award, see section 1.3).
2. A letter of nomination from a programme director.

Deadline for nominations is 17 October 2025, 12:00 CET (via onderwijsbeleid.beta@vu.nl). Late or incomplete nominations unfortunately cannot be considered for selection.

Selection and determination of nomination BETA

If several nominations are submitted, the most likely project will be selected by an internal committee headed by the education director. The criteria for the VU Education Impact Award as described above are leading in this process. The selection will be submitted to the BETA FB for determination of the project that BETA will nominate to VU CTL.

1.5. FURTHER PROCEDURE & TIMEFRAME

Faculty boards may digitally nominate a teaching team to the jury committee coordinators Amrita Das and Syreen Arens (ctlrecognize@vu.nl) **no later than Friday, Nov. 7, 2025 11:59 p.m.**

- Each faculty is entitled to nominate two teams. The Faculty of Science is an exception and may nominate three teams.
- The nomination is made by the Faculty Board.
- In any case, the nomination includes a completed proposal (Format for submitting a proposal for the Education Impact Award 2025-2026, see Section 1.3).

Only complete nominations will be considered. Late nominations or nominations with incomplete documents will not be considered. Judges will refrain from judging nominations from within their own faculty.

After nominations are submitted, the coordinator sends an acknowledgement of receipt to the faculties.

Faculty nominations will be judged by the Education Impact Award jury in a two-stage process. During the first round, members of the Education Impact Award jury in a joint meeting will shortlist four nominated projects.

After the first round, the coordinator will inform the nominated teams and faculty boards of the interim results through a letter.

The second round of selection involves a pitch and interview round. At the interview, the team provides this pitch and the nominees will then be interviewed. After the pitch and interview round, the judges will designate two winning teaching teams.

The finalists and two winning teaching teams will be highlighted and presented to the public **at the Education Awards ceremony on Education Day on March 5, 2026.**

The two winning teaching teams will each receive € 15,000. Following the presentation, an article will appear in the VU newsletter - Education. The CTL will provide free assistance to the two winning teams in disseminating experiences gained during the initiative.