

Criteria

for the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and/or UNITWIN Networks

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This document defines the criteria – both required and desirable – for the establishment of UNESCO Chairs and/or UNITWIN Networks. It is applicable to all actors: (1) Higher education institutions when elaborating their proposals; (2) National Commissions for UNESCO when selecting proposals; (3) UNESCO when screening and evaluating proposals.

Required

Applications to establish a UNESCO Chair and/or UNITWIN Network must meet all the following criteria:

ELIGIBILITY

- Higher Education Institution:** Proposed by a higher education institution that is recognized, accredited or otherwise sanctioned by the competent national or local authorities.

Note that applications are accepted from higher education institutions in all countries, including those that are not currently UNESCO Member States.

SCOPE/FOCUS

- Contribution to UNESCO priorities:** Contributes to one or more of UNESCO's priorities as outlined in the Medium-Term Strategy (2022-2029) and the Approved Programme (2022-2025).

APPROACH

- Integrated approach:** Proposes an integrated workplan that combines research, teaching/training, and community engagement.
- Engagement with UNESCO and its networks:** Demonstrates established partnerships or plans to establish them with UNESCO teams, other UNESCO Chairs or UNITWIN Networks, UNESCO networks, UNESCO Category II Centres, as well as other partners.
- South-South and North-South-South cooperation:** Demonstrates South-South and North-South-South cooperation through inter-university networking and cooperation.

CAPACITY

- Requisite expertise:** Demonstrated educational and relevant expertise of proposed Chairholder(s) or Coordinator(s) and team members in the thematic area(s) proposed, including their capacity to generate high-quality publications.
- Capacity for inter-university cooperation and networking:** Demonstrated capacity to collaborate with other higher education institutions, offer opportunities for academic mobility and student exchange, as well as to undertake knowledge sharing and dissemination activities.
- Financial sustainability:** Adequate funding secured and/or plans to secure them for the activities foreseen in the 4-year plan.

Desirable

Priority will be given to applications that additionally meet one or more of the following criteria:

Higher education or research institutions:

- Underrepresented countries/regions:** from (1) countries that have no UNESCO Chair or a UNITWIN Network, (2) from Africa; (3) from SIDS.
- New institutions:** which do not yet have an established UNESCO Chair or UNITWIN Network.
- Gender equality:** which put forward a woman chairperson.

SCOPE/FOCUS

- Geographical scope:** Activities undertaken are multi-country, inter-regional or international in scope. Preference to projects focused on and/or benefitting Africa.
- Interdisciplinary approaches:** Approaches are interdisciplinary/multidisciplinary in design.
- Future-oriented perspective:** Approaches are forward-looking and future-oriented.
- New themes:** Proposal addresses thematic areas not already covered by another UNESCO chair in the country.

APPROACH

- Gender lens:** Proposal includes a gender-sensitive approach with activities aimed at addressing gender equality issues specifically.