



# Guidelines for application: Teaching and Learning Award 2026

22 to 24 October 2026, University of Bern

## ABOUT THE AWARD

The ENLIGHT Teaching & Learning Award recognises a course or programme that has implemented innovative, international pedagogical approaches and/or learning practices related to the educational aims of ENLIGHT. The award should be seen as a celebration of the best teaching practices within the ENLIGHT network as well as an opportunity to show sincere gratitude for those putting extra effort into the education they provide.

The award will be presented during the Teaching & Learning Conference, hosted by the University of Bern from 22 to 24 October 2026.

Each ENLIGHT university can nominate **one course** for the award by the end of May 2026. Each institution is responsible for their own internal selection process. Learn more about the internal selection process below. The internal submission deadline **for Göttingen is end of April 2026**.

The nominees are courses rather than individuals, so the entire teaching team of a course can be awarded. The winner will be known as “ENLIGHT’s Course of the Year”, with two runners-up recognised as well. The courses should show the use of the ENLIGHT Educational Principles in their design and execution.

## How to apply as nominee from the University of Göttingen

Please prepare the application material as described above (cover sheet + portfolio).

Nominations from members of the University of Göttingen should be sent via email to [enlight@uni-goettingen.de](mailto:enlight@uni-goettingen.de) before **30 of April 2026**.

After the internal jury process, all Göttingen nominees will receive feedback (mid-May). **Based on the jury feedback**, the selected nomination can be updated before the official deadline to hand it in at the end of May.

If you have **questions** related to the preparation, please contact the ENLIGHT Teaching and Learning Award contact person at our university Angelika Thielsch ([angelika.thielsch@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:angelika.thielsch@zvw.uni-goettingen.de)) from the Section for Teaching and Learning in Higher Education ([Hochschuldidaktik](#)) or Anna Savitskaya ([anna.savitskaya@zvw.uni-goettingen.de](mailto:anna.savitskaya@zvw.uni-goettingen.de)) from the International Office ([Göttingen International](#)).

## CRITERIA FOR THE 2026 AWARD

Criteria	Explanation
Relevance to ENLIGHT educational principles?	<p>To what extent does the course or programme take ENLIGHT educational principles into account?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Transdisciplinarity:</b> Courses involve collaboration with teachers of different subjects. Students gather and apply knowledge and perspectives from different disciplines and expertise in order to investigate a defined challenge.</li> <li>• <b>Collaboration with external stakeholders:</b> Collaboration with external stakeholders to tackle current challenges.</li> <li>• <b>Research-oriented teaching:</b> Teaching students to raise scientific questions, formulate problems, and find solutions to research questions, drawing upon a wide range of research skills.</li> <li>• <b>Intercultural and international learning:</b> Interaction with students from various countries with different cultural backgrounds and academic knowledge.</li> <li>• <b>Versatility:</b> Scientific knowledge is united with transversal skills such as intercultural awareness, inclusive leadership, and multilingualism.</li> <li>• <b>Challenge-based education:</b> Students work on real-life challenges that can be provided by academics, external stakeholders, or students. The aim is to develop, implement, and test solutions in authentic, real-world contexts.</li> </ul>
Replicability in the ENLIGHT community.	To what extent can the course/programme, or parts thereof, be replicated by another teaching team within the ENLIGHT-network?
Innovative approaches to student involvement.	<p>To what extent are students involved in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the planning process of the course/programme?</li> <li>- the execution of the course/programme?</li> <li>- the evaluation of the course/programme?</li> </ul>

## THE APPLICATION

Each applicant must submit a **portfolio** and **cover sheet**.

**The cover sheet** (1 page) must include:

- course title
- course summary (200 words)
- profile of all educators involved.

The application should clearly indicate the team leader or contact person and provide their contact details.

**The portfolio** (2–4 pages) should describe the course or programme in detail and provide evidence for how the course meets the award criteria. All claims made in the portfolio need to be substantiated with evidence such as:

- examples given within the description
- reference/hyperlink to documentation demonstrating course development, implementation, outcomes, and other relevant aspects. The format of the evidence documentation can be decided by the applicant (e.g., assessment data, peer feedback, summary of student feedback, web address and screenshots, sample course pages, video).

**If your submission has been selected as university nominee** and was submitted officially at the end of May, the conference organizers will send you a link to create and **submit a video** on your submission directly to the ENLIGHT conference team.

**The video** (2 minutes) allows you to showcase your course in a creative and lively manner. The videos of all 10 nominees will be uploaded to the conference website and *do not count* towards your evidence. The video will be created using Cofenster and requires the use of a webcam or smartphone. All instructions are included in this easy-to-use tool.

Information about the award and the conference can be found on the ENLIGHT [web page](#).

## AFTER SUBMISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY NOMINEES

The award jury, consisting of students of all 10 ENLIGHT universities, will evaluate all ten nominations and decide the first, second, and third place.

All ten nominees will give a 3-minute pitch at the conference, on **Friday 23 October**. At the awards session in the afternoon, the first, second, and third placed nominees will be announced. The fourth to tenth placed nominees will then pitch their programme/course, together with the panel discussions for the Diversity & Inclusion and the Sustainability awards.

The first, second, and third placed nominees will make their pitch at the conference dinner in the evening, followed by the prize giving for the winner.