

CALL FOR COURSE PROPOSALS FOR THE CEU SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2025

The Summer University (SUN) of the Central European University (CEU) announces a call for course proposals for its summer school program held in **Budapest, July 1 – July 31, 2025**.

Cooperation partner: the Open Society Foundations ([OSF](#))

We encourage course teams to create new partnerships between CEU and their academic and professional institutions, networks, foundations, and interested sponsors supporting their fields by offering external funding.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Summer University (SUN) of CEU is the extension of the university's mission of promoting research, teaching, and social engagement by hosting high-level, research-oriented, interdisciplinary, and innovative academic courses in the social sciences and the humanities as well as workshops on policy issues and professional development. The short, intensive courses, developed and taught collaboratively by teams of distinguished international scholars (including faculty of CEU), experts and practitioners, are aimed at global audiences including graduate students, junior or post-doctoral researchers, junior faculty, and professionals. The teaching teams' joint expertise is shared with participants in a comparative framework during the summer courses.

SUN offers a platform for debate, collaboration, and innovation across the sectors of higher education, policy, practice, and activism, and builds stronger and more durable linkages at the peer and institutional levels. SUN courses cater to the various needs of academic and professional development in the social sciences and humanities across a wide spectrum of disciplines. These include anthropology, cognitive science, comparative religion, cultural heritage, environmental sciences, gender studies, history, environmental sciences and policy, international relations, cultural, legal, media and medieval studies, mediation, philosophy, political science, public policy, sociology, etc. The program encourages topics in emerging fields and subjects of global significance.

Past SUN courses addressed topical issues: inequalities, conflict resolution, interethnic relations, migration, nationalism and transnationalism, globalization, human rights, climate change and sustainability, urban development, Romani identities, religion and politics, use of geospatial technologies for environmental decision and policymaking, among others. A segment of courses aimed to develop innovative curricula and pedagogical approaches in traditional disciplines, including medieval studies, philosophy, music, and arts. The courses combine the focus on general theoretical frameworks and approaches to research and application embedded in the context of the countries/regions the course participants come from.

The program builds on CEU's recognized academic excellence, regional expertise, and resources, and provides space for academic networking between junior and senior scholars from a wide range of institutions and discipline areas, often with long-term outcomes such as collaborative research and teaching projects, joint publications, civic engagement projects, etc.

HISTORY & KEY FACTS

To multiply the impact of CEU's mission, the summer program was launched in 1996. Since the inception of the program, twenty-eight summer schools held from 1996 to 2023 offered 490 courses. Until 2023, the program received 39,538 applications; 13,616 participants attended, and 4,200 faculty taught in its courses. The average number of countries represented in any given course is 13-17, ensuring the truly and uniquely international nature of the program.

Participants enrolled in the program so far represent over 150 different countries ranging from East and Central Europe and the former Soviet Union to countries of Asia, Africa, North and South America. Most of the past participants are graduate students, junior faculty, and researchers; the courses also draw professionals: government officials, independent experts, NGO workers, artists, and activists. The gender distribution tends to be 57% female and 43% male. Faculty members have come to teach courses from close to 90 different countries.

Course Types

Courses typically last one or two (consecutive) weeks. Based on the CEU credit hour system, each course has a teaching load of 24 hours (1,200 minutes) per week of classroom work, complemented by independent reading and extracurricular activities. The program offers the following types of courses:

(1) **research-focused/intensive collaborations** co-led by CEU and non-CEU faculty, with the involvement of further invited faculty and experts. Courses are collaboratively developed and delivered in partnerships among academics and professionals from institutions in the Global South and the Global North.

(2) **policy, professional, and community-oriented programs/courses as well as skills-oriented training courses**

FEES AND COSTS

The standard participation costs, excluding travel, are the following in EUR:

	One-week course	Two-week course
Tuition fee in EUR (varies by course) *	300	550
Accommodation (single room: 39 EUR/night in the Residence Center) **	234	507
Travel on average	600-800	600-800
Living expenses in EUR	200-250	300-350

* Fees for institutions can be set at a higher rate.

** Prices at CEU Residence Center are subject to change.

Participants

The recommended class size is 25-30 participants.

Participants are either self-funded (fee-payers or those who receive full or partial fee waivers) or students who receive financial aid.

Financial aid for course participants

SCHOLARSHIPS AND TUITION WAIVERS

CEU-OSF (full or partial) scholarships will be available in a limited number

The following applicants are eligible for an OSF scholarship covering their costs fully or partially such as tuition, travel (including visa), and housing:

- Participants from the Global South.
- Applicants from Ukraine (both Ukrainian refugees and those living in Ukraine).

Tuition Waivers

- CIVICA scholarships
A full tuition waiver is available for currently enrolled students of [CIVICA member universities](#).
- Hungarian Colleges for Advanced Studies
Students at Hungarian Colleges for Advanced Studies ("Szakkollégium") are eligible for a full tuition waiver.

In addition, the SUN program may award a few full or partial tuition waivers to outstanding applicants recommended by the course director/s (max.10 percent of the total number of enrolled participants).

Other scholarships

Some courses may offer further types of scholarships or financial aid provided by CEU and other universities, NGOs, donor agencies, etc. Such additional funding opportunities are welcome and will be listed in the Financial Information document on the respective course web pages when the course program opens to applications. Course proposals should contain information about any possible external funding that the course directors plan to draw on to support diverse cohorts of participants who may require financial assistance to attend SUN.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Courses funded by CEU SUN with support from OSF

CEU SUN and OSF's philanthropic support provides funding that covers core course development and faculty costs and several scholarships allocated for each course. This funding (see the [one-week](#) and [two-week](#) sample budgets) will

- support the development of courses addressing the broadly defined thematic and programmatic priorities of CEU SUN, and
- provide competitive scholarships to applicants from the Global South or Ukraine to attend SUN courses.

CEU SUN courses should be convened by a CEU faculty or staff member and a counterpart(s) from other university(ies) and have clear relevance to CEU SUN's mission.

A subset of SUN courses will be specific to CEU's commitment to promote research, teaching, critical debate, and social engagement in illiberal contexts. Based at CEU's Budapest site, SUN aims to support the research, teaching, and local and regional outreach of CEU's other Budapest-based units, including, but not limited to, the Democracy Institute, Institute of Advanced Study, and Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives. SUN especially welcomes course proposals from these units that aim to critically rethink open society, revitalize its intellectual foundations, and equip it with resilient force in the face of challenges to liberal democracy worldwide. In the current global climate, this implies a research focus on illiberalism in a comparative perspective via a concerted and coordinated effort to understand its sources, trajectories, appeal, practices, and spread in different parts of the world.

External funding sources

Proposal authors are *encouraged to supplement their core budget wherever possible*. Seeking external funding is encouraged in the following expenditure categories:

- **Contribution to course costs** (honoraria and/or travel and/or accommodation of faculty, fieldtrips, and social programs)
- **Scholarships for participants**
 - a. Applicants' home institutions (e.g., travel grants for Ph.D. students and faculty from departments)
 - b. Establishing an institutional partnership between CEU and another university, research institute, or international organizations (our current and previous partners include the Council of Europe, UNDP, International IDEA, etc.)
 - c. European Union research projects

SUN can be part of a consortium for performing the task of dissemination of research results of an EU research project.
 - d. Foundations supporting research, and /or summer schools (e.g., Volkswagen, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, etc.)

The SUN office is ready to assist with joint applications for funding where needed. Proposal authors can contact [Ms Kornelia Vargha](#), head of the SUN Office to discuss possible funding schemes during the proposal preparation phase.

Course directors' role

Each course is convened and led by a course director (or in collaboration with one or two co-directors), who is (are) responsible for the academic content and the organization of the course. As each course is allotted its own budget, they are the budget administrators as well. Detailed final budgets will be prepared by the SUN office staff in cooperation with the course director/s during the course confirmation process.

Faculty

COMPOSITION

The course director recruits *an international team* of co-teachers, who design the course content, the syllabus, the reading lists, etc. in close cooperation. Holding a Ph.D. is a minimum requirement for faculty with research-format courses. The course teams are expected to aim for diversity in terms of their geographical, institutional, and disciplinary background. Preferably, they are composed of an even mix of

- outstanding scholars and/or practitioners from the Global North and the Global South
- CEU and non-CEU-based faculty

Interested applicants outside CEU are strongly encouraged to contact CEU faculty and staff whose work is relevant to the proposed course early in the course development process about the possible collaborative design and co-convening of the course. One of the important criteria in the selection of the course proposals by the CEU Summer University Board is how the summer course contributes to the academic interests and advancement of CEU faculty and departments.

Course proposals submitted for funding are expected to be co-designed in collaboration with faculty from CEU. Course director(s) may invite further faculty and experts from around the world.

NUMBER OF TEACHERS

Ideally, a one-week course is envisaged to be taught by 4-5 core faculty members. One or two, preferably local, guest speakers can also be added if necessary and the budget can cover it. A longer course (with eight, nine, or ten teaching days) may invite additional core faculty. Deviation from this proposed format is possible in well-justified cases and when the budget allows for a larger team.

EXPECTED LENGTH OF STAY/LEVEL OF INVOLVEMENT

Courses are typically team-taught, and faculty should expect to participate in class discussions outside of their own sessions and be available to the participants for the entire period of their stay, including out-of-class consultations and extracurricular activities. If their schedule does not allow for this, some faculty can be involved to participate only in a part of the course.

COURSE ADMINISTRATION

Course directors can hire a coordinator to help with administrative tasks as the budget permits. The SUN Office is responsible for the overall organization of the courses in terms of recruitment, processing applications, taking care of travel and housing arrangements, etc.

Teaching mode

PRE-COURSE ENGAGEMENT

Each course has an interactive site designated for it, where each participant and faculty member can create their profile and post distance learning materials, readings, and pre-course assignments, hold electronic seminar discussions, and circulate messages before and during the course.

DURING THE SUMMER COURSE

In addition to the academic quality of the course, one of the major contributors to its success is the variety of teaching methods it employs. Course proposal authors are encouraged to include a broad range of teaching methods, such as lectures, intensive reading seminars, discussions, individual and group projects, presentations, field trips, etc., thus avoiding lectures being the dominant medium for teaching. SUN courses aim to provide a model in terms of course design and methodology as well by exposing participants to a diversity of teaching methods they could adopt and experiment with within their own teaching.

TEACHING MODE – IN-PERSON AND ONLINE

SUN is designed as a fully residential immersive experience. We anticipate that the post-pandemic recovery allows us to hold fully residential courses, with faculty and participants engaging in person, with observance of safety measures at the time. The summer school does not promote a hybrid mode combining online and offline teaching, but occasional presenters, the scope of whose contribution does not require an in-person presence, may join sessions online, on CEU's Zoom platform.

HOW TO APPLY?

Option I

Two-stage submission process with a simplified first stage and the provision of more materials in the second stage once the proposal has passed the first one.

1. Submission of a **draft (or concept) proposal, deadline: May 3, 2024**

Proposal authors are invited to submit a preliminary draft to Ms Kornelia Vargha by [email](#) with a brief description of the course concept (up to 2 pages/1,200 words), including:

- planned length of the course
- tentative title of the course and a brief description, including the list of the main topics
- a short explanation of how the course contributes to SUN's mission, and/or the academic development of CEU faculty/units.
- an indication of what funding is expected (e.g., CEU or other external funding); approximately how much the course requests.
- a faculty list with brief bios

2. Feedback on draft proposals, **deadline: May 31, 2024**

The CEU Summer University Board will review draft proposals and decide to:

- a) invite a full submission (which does not guarantee final approval)
- b) reject the draft proposal if it is not in line with SUN's mission, or CEU's institutional goals with SUN described in the Call for Proposals.

3. Submission of the **complete course proposal, deadline: July 1, 2024**

Option II

One-stage submission of new full proposals, **deadline: July 1, 2024**

If a proposal author does not wish to take advantage of the two-stage process and receive feedback from the CEU Summer University Board before submitting the complete proposal, the first stage of sending a draft proposal can be skipped. Full (single-staged) proposals should be submitted by July 1, 2024.

Option III

One-stage submission of repeat full proposals, **deadline: August 11, 2024**

Repeat courses are requested to submit a one-stage full proposal by August 11, 2024.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF THE COMPLETE COURSE PROPOSAL

Each complete course proposal should contain the following:

1. PROPOSAL
 - Statement of Purpose (1 page)
 - Pre-requisites for the course
 - Course overview ([download template](#))
 - A short statement about the proposed ways of performance evaluation and expected course outcomes
 - Indication of potential interest from the target audience
 - A short statement about gender equity
 - Repeat proposals (if applicable)
2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS
 - Proposal summary datasheet I ([download template](#))
 - Faculty datasheet II ([download template](#))
 - Faculty CVs and letters of intent ([download template](#))
 - Tentative budget (download a [one-week](#) or [two-week](#) sample budget)
 - SUN proposals (USD)

1. PROPOSAL

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE (1 PAGE)

- Course rationale, aims, and objectives.
- Addressing the SUN mission and priorities
- Benefits for CEU (how the course can help contribute to the academic and /or professional development of CEU faculty members and its units)

PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE COURSE/TARGET AUDIENCE

The course intends to bring together XXX. We envisage that the course could be of interest for:

- XXX

As a prerequisite for the course, participants need to demonstrate XXX.

COURSE OVERVIEW

Daily Schedule – course overview ([download template](#))

Bibliography

A list of **articles and books** used by faculty in designing the course. This list may be used as a recommendation or background reading for participants.

PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT/EXPECTED OUTCOMES

By the end of the summer course, participants will xxx (learning outcomes)

Assessment of the participants' work will be based on:

e.g.:

- class participation and discussion of readings
- case studies-home assignments presented.
- consultations with faculty

All participants receive a certificate of attendance upon successful completion of the course. In order to gain this certificate, participants will be expected to attend and actively participate in all classes and complete assignments required by the course. In addition, all SUN courses will issue ECTS credits (typically 1 credit per week).

POTENTIAL INTEREST BY TARGET AUDIENCE

Aside from the SUN standard advertisement channels, the project would be advertised through xxx

A STATEMENT ABOUT GENDER EQUITY

(in line with CEU's "Policy on gender equity at academic events and summer schools")

Course organizers should be attentive to the need to address gender equity when the invited speakers for an event are selected and should include a section addressing this issue by stating either

- a) that the invited speakers have a good balance of male and female speakers, or
- b) explain how efforts were made and why such a balance could not be achieved

Course organizers are encouraged to consult appropriate sources for advice on how to achieve gender balance at academic events. (For example, <http://feministphilosophers.wordpress.com/2011/03/26/how-to-avoid-a-gendered-conference/> or <http://forgenderequityatconferences.blogspot.hu/2012/09/q.html>)

REPEAT PROPOSALS

Repeat proposals without any major change in faculty or content should contain an **additional statement** presenting a strong academic argument about why the same course should be held again. **Please highlight revisions to the course content (topics, bibliography, resources, etc.), faculty composition, methodology, etc.**

2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

PROPOSAL SUMMARY DATASHEETS

- **Datasheet I** – Summary of course details ([download template](#))
- **Datasheet II** – Faculty information ([download template](#))

FACULTY CVs AND LETTERS OF INTENT

- CV and publication list
CVs should not be longer than 2-4 pages, publication lists should contain selected publications, e.g., from the past 10 years, or the 10 most important ones, etc.
- letter of intent ([download template](#))

TENTATIVE BUDGET

Download a [one-week](#) or [two-week](#) sample budget for SUN proposals (USD)

We will help proposal authors prepare a tentative budget during the course application process to see how the costs of the proposed course can be covered. Please contact [Ms Kornelia Vargha](#) to discuss the budget.

REVIEW AND SELECTION

1. Submission of proposals

Two-stage submissions:

- Draft proposals: **May 3, 2024**
- Final proposals: **July 1, 2024**

One-stage submissions:

- Full proposals: **July 1, 2024**
- Repeat courses: **August 11, 2024**

Applications should be sent by [email](#) to Ms Kornelia Vargha, SUN Director, SUN Office in Word and Excel formats.

2. Review and selection

- Draft proposals will be reviewed by the CEU Summer University Board by May 31, 2024, and feedback provided to the authors.
- Final proposals will be reviewed by external evaluators and the SUN Board which will consider the quality and relevance to the mission and stated priorities of the summer program and CEU's institutional goals (see the selection criteria below). The SUN Office may contact proposal authors for further information or to make recommendations.

3. Notification

All proposal authors will receive notification about the results of the review and selection via e-mail. Notification of selection will take place by the end of October 2024.

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

In selecting proposals, the SUN Board will take into consideration:

- **Experience and expertise of the proposed faculty**
Holding a Ph.D. is a minimum requirement for faculty of research-format courses. Preference will be given to proposals that include internationally recognized, outstanding scholars in their fields.
- **The proposal's added value to CEU and its alignment with the program mission and priorities outlined in the Call**
- Proposals shall show relevance to the priorities and ongoing initiatives of CEU. Preference will be given to the proposals that demonstrate the course's contribution to the academic and professional advancement of CEU departments and units.
- **Interdisciplinary and innovative approaches**
We strongly encourage proposals that demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach, offer fresh insight into current research, and present innovative course design and pedagogy.

- **Quality of the course overview (relevance, coherence, etc.)**

The authors are advised to submit a detailed and concrete overview of the course (even if tentative at the stage of selection), based on which the proposal evaluators can make an informed assessment of the proposed course.

- **A balanced composition of the teaching team**

As relevant to the course subject and scope, preference is given to applications that propose a teaching team that represents a diverse and dynamic mixture of scholars/experts from the Global South and the Global North, who are sensitive to and knowledgeable about the specific needs and problems of the regions from where the participants come. Balanced gender composition is also an important expectation.

- **Sound pedagogical approach**

Proposals should employ a variety of teaching methods relevant to the nature of the course and the subject of study and be designed in a student-centered manner.

- **Supplementary external funding**

Preference is given to proposals that, in addition to conforming to all other requirements of the program, can bring supplementary funding to the CEU SUN base budget and/or are able to attract significant numbers of self-funded participants.