open society university network

Call for Concepts
Open Society University Network
Fall 2020

About OSUN

The Open Society University Network (OSUN) is a new global network co-founded by the Central European University and Bard College that integrates learning and the advancement of knowledge across geographic and demographic boundaries, promotes civic engagement on behalf of open societies, and expands access of underserved communities to higher education. This network is distinguished by the breadth and depth of integration across participating institutions, their shared commitment to advance open society and address fundamental global challenges, and geographic and institutional diversity. The innovative use of online platforms and pedagogical approaches facilitates OSUN's efforts to bring together students, faculty, and researchers from diverse communities in collaborative learning. Details on OSUN are available at opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org.

Invitation to Submit a Concept Paper

OSUN invites initial, one-page concepts from individuals or teams of faculty, researchers, or staff at partner institutions for collaborative programs that advance one or more of OSUN's core priorities:

1. integrate curricula, teaching, and research across partner institutions;
2. expand civic engagement;
3. increase access to higher education.

Program concepts should envision substantive collaboration between two or more OSUN partner institutions. A list of OSUN partner institutions is included below.

Concepts should address one or more of the following OSUN themes or strategies to increase access or engagement:

Academic Themes (collaborative teaching, curriculum development, or research)
- Democratic Practice
- Sustainability
- Inequalities
- Human Rights
- Arts and Open Society
- Global Public Health

Access and Engagement Strategies
- Liberal Arts Pedagogy
- Teacher Education
- Early Colleges and Preparatory Programs
- Micro-Colleges
- Refugee Education
- Civic Engagement

Format for Concept Submissions

This call for concepts is the first step in a two-step process; OSUN will, in the second step, invite authors of selected concepts to develop a full proposal.

Concepts should succinctly summarize the purpose, anticipated results, activities, and relevance to OSUN of a proposed program. They should answer the following questions:

- Why is this program needed? What is the proposed program's purpose?
- What are the proposed program's objectives and intended outcomes?
- What activities will be conducted?
- How will the proposed program increase collaboration among network partners?

Concepts should include an estimate of the total cost. A detailed budget is <u>not</u> required at this stage.

Funding will focus on supporting collaboration between students, faculty, and staff at different OSUN partner institutions. It will <u>not</u> support institutional infrastructure, regular education programs, or other expenditures that only benefit a single institution.

Selection Criteria and Process

OSUN will select concepts according to their potential to accomplish <u>all</u> of the following:

1. *Advance one or more of OSUN's core priorities*: (1) integrate curricula, teaching, or research across partner institutions; (2) expand civic engagement; or (3) increase access to higher education.

2. *Build or strengthen sustainable partnerships*: increase integration or collaboration among network institutions, particularly institutions in the global South; generate partnerships that will be organic and sustainable within the respective institutions; and, where applicable, build on previous successful collaborations or on activities supported by the Open Society Foundations. Concepts are required to envision the substantive involvement of at least one OSUN partner institution in addition to the lead institution.

3. *Produce significant value added to OSUN's mission and scope*: define clear objectives and outcomes aligned with OSUN's vision; offer significant prospects for innovation;

advance learning or knowledge creation related to OSUN's key academic themes (democracy, sustainable development, inequalities, etc.); expand OSUN's geographic and demographic diversity; and/or make innovative use of technology.

OSUN seeks concepts that show significant potential to advance its priorities by building partnerships and adding value. For selected concepts, OSUN may offer suggestions on refining the concept or facilitate connections to partner institutions to enhance the concept's potential to contribute to OSUN.

Concepts are **due by December 15** at 11:59 pm EST. OSUN will open an online portal on December 1 for submissions of concepts. They should be one page or less, although applicants may provide additional documents. OSUN will review submitted concepts and invite select applicants to develop a full proposal with a detailed budget in early 2021. Competitive grants will be made available for the implementation of selected programs starting in September 2021. Institutional and in-kind contributions to projects are strongly encouraged. Please email applications@opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org with any questions.

OSUN Partners

Colleges and Universities
Al-Quds University/Al-Quds Bard
American University of Beirut
American University in Bulgaria
American University of Central Asia
Arizona State University
Ashesi University
Bard College
Bard College at Simon's Rock
Bard College Berlin
Bard Early Colleges
Birkbeck, University of London
BRAC University
Central European University
European Humanities University
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
National University of Political Studies and Public Administration, Romania
Sciences Po
SOAS, University of London
Universidad de los Andes
University of the Witwatersrand

Research and Educational Institutions
Bard Prison Initiative
Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs
Chatham House
Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen
Institute for New Economic Thinking
Parami Institute
Princeton Global History Lab
Rift Valley Institute
The Talloires Network
University of California, Berkeley Human Rights Center

Frequently Asked Questions
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Do I need to identify OSUN partner institutions in my concept?
If you have spoken to potential OSUN partners, please name them in your concept, but you are
not required at this stage to secure commitments from OSUN partner institutions. The OSUN
Secretariat can facilitate connections to partner institutions if you are later invited to submit a full
proposal. However, your concept should aim to build or strengthen substantive, sustainable
partnerships with counterparts at other OSUN institutions.

May I work with institutions outside of OSUN?
While you may work with institutions outside of OSUN, OSUN support aims to foster
collaboration among OSUN institutions, and concepts will be assessed in large part on their
potential to strengthen collaboration within OSUN's network.

May I submit a concept that falls outside of OSUN's academic themes?
Yes, if your concept is related to these themes, is consistent with OSUN's mission to promote
open society and address fundamental global challenges, or advances OSUN priorities of
fostering critical thinking and open intellectual inquiry, stimulating civic engagement, or
expanding access of underserved communities to higher education. For example, concepts on
humanities education or on democratic governance of universities will be considered; but
research on astrophysics will not.

Should I provide a budget?
Please provide an estimate of your proposed program's total cost. A detailed budget is not
required at this stage. If your concept is selected, you will be invited to submit a full proposal
and detailed budget.

Does OSUN provide multi-year support?
New OSUN programs typically receive one year of funding. Programs that show progress in
their first year and potential for further impact may become eligible for follow-on funding.

May I submit more than one concept?
Yes.

May I serve as a program leader on one concept and a partner on a different project?
Yes.

Do I need my institution's endorsement to submit a concept?
Each OSUN institution will define its own procedure for internal reviews of concepts. OSUN
encourages institutions to set up a procedure to review concepts internally, before concepts are
submitted to OSUN, and will seek feedback from each institution's leadership on concepts
developed at their institution.

How will concepts be selected?
Concepts will be competitively reviewed and selected by OSUN according to the priorities and criteria articulated in the Call for Concepts. The selection will reflect the internal reviews and feedback from leadership of each applicant's institution.

How should I format my program concept?
Please articulate your concept succinctly in one page or less of text and address the OSUN priorities and selection criteria detailed in the Call for Concepts.

May I write a longer concept or submit additional materials?
As OSUN anticipates a very large number of submissions under this network-wide Call for Concepts, you will need to provide a stand-alone concept of one page or less that can be assessed on its own merits. However, you will have the opportunity to submit addition documents with, including more detailed explanation on, your concept.

What is the procedure for submitting a concept?
After your concept has undergone internal review at your institution, you are welcome to submit it to OSUN online. OSUN's portal will open on December 1 and accept concept submission until December 15.

When will OSUN announce its decisions?
OSUN expects to make decisions on program concepts by February 2021 and invite select applicants to develop a full proposal with a detailed budget. Announcement of grant awards is anticipated for summer 2021.

If invited to submit a proposal, how much time will I have to write it?
About six weeks. The deadline for submitting full proposals will be announced in early 2021.

Who should I contact for more information?
Please email applications@opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org with any questions.

If I have technical difficulties, who do I contact?
Please email applications@opensocietyuniversitynetwork.org to resolve any technical difficulties you may experience.