



Grant Overview and Eligibility

Purpose of Grants

U.S.-Russia Virtual University Partnerships (UniVIP) is a network for U.S. and Russian universities to navigate the challenging global international education environment, test and improve application of innovative methods for virtual exchange. Grants provide resources to educators in the United States and Russia to adapt policies and practices for online teaching and learning, integrate technology solutions, and co-create curriculum for virtual faculty and student exchanges.

Administered by American Councils for International Education (American Councils), five (5) grants of up to \$15,000 will be awarded to educators affiliated with U.S. higher education institutions to launch projects advancing university partnerships in 2024. Projects may support any area of virtual and innovative activity (e.g., incorporating Artificial Intelligence (AI) in teaching and learning, EdTech, building capacity for remote teaching and learning, integrating virtual reality into the classroom setting, improving the student user experience in virtual and hybrid learning environments, virtual competency skills for university faculty and students, etc).

Eligibility

U.S. faculty members and administrators are eligible to apply for partnership awards with Russian institutional partners. Applications submitted by Russian universities are not eligible. Proposed projects may introduce new components to existing U.S.-Russia higher education collaborations or establish new partnership activity with current or new partners. Current UniVIP partners and program alumni are encouraged to apply for grants to strengthen their ties and expand connections between U.S. and Russian higher education institutions, faculty, and students. Applications that involve a consortium of one or more Russian regional institutions are encouraged. Applications must demonstrate connection points and commitment by participating faculty members from the Russian side.

Deadline for Applications: Friday 16 Feb 2024 4:00 PM U.S. Eastern Time

Awards

Through a competitive selection process, American Councils will award five (5) partnership grants of up to \$15,000 to eligible U.S. applicants. These funds may be used to cover online platforms, learning management systems, digital resources, conference fees, professional association membership fees and provide honoraria to implement virtual activity on relevant themes. Grant money may be also used for travel of the Russian university representatives: Russian university representatives will have an opportunity to visit their U.S. university partner to strengthen their connections and improve relevant skills and/or participate in the U.S.-based conferences and professional development events. While U.S. grantees will be responsible for their partners' site visit agenda, American Councils will do its best to assist Russian partners with obtaining U.S. visas.

Awards are expected to begin in March or April 2024 to support projects to be completed by December 31, 2024. Partners will be expected to conduct synchronous and asynchronous engagement activities throughout the duration of their projects. Preference will be given to projects that involve teams of at least 2-3 participants from each partner institution.

Criteria for Evaluation

American Councils will notify applicants on awards by **February 25, 2024**. American Councils will evaluate applications based on:

1. **Relevance and Innovative Strategy (1-20 score):** Does this project advance the program goals of adapting policies and practices for online teaching and learning, integrating technology solutions, and co-creating curriculum for virtual faculty and student exchanges?
2. **Applicants' Experience and Expertise (1-30 score):** Do the applicants have relevant experience implementing international partnership projects? Do they have experience delivering virtual education activities in an international setting? Does the project involve university teams with necessary expertise on both sides?
3. **Monitoring and Evaluation (1-20 score):** Does the proposal explain how project success will be determined? Does the proposal include an effective methodology for measuring success?
4. **Sustainability (1-10 score):** How likely is the partnership to continue beyond the project period? Does the proposal include a clear strategy for sustaining the partnership beyond the grant period? Does the project involve several university representatives from both U.S. and Russian sides?
5. **Budget feasibility (1-20 score):** Is the project achievable in the timeframe proposed? Does the application have a realistic budget that covers allowable costs? Does the budget include a reasonable level of indirect costs and honoraria?

Additional Information

You may download an Application Form and Budget Template.

To submit an application, complete and submit this online application form.

For questions about UniVIP, please contact Egor Ivanov, UniVIP Program Officer at eivanov@americancouncils.org and Ksenia Ivanenko, Program Manager, Higher Education Partnerships and Capacity at kivanenko@americancouncils.org.

About the U.S. Partner Applicant

U.S. Partner University

University Name

Primary Contact

Your Name

First Name Middle Name Last Name

School Department

Job Title

Work Mailing Address

Street Address

City

State

ZIP Code

Primary Email Address

egrishchenko@americancouncils.org

Alternate Email

Telephone(s)

#	Telephone Number	Telephone Type
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About the Russian Partner

Primary University in Russia

University in Russia (Name and Address)

University Name

Street Address

City

Region

Postal Code

Primary Contact

Russian Contact's Name:

First/Given Name Middle Name/Patronymic Last/Family Name

School Department

Job Title

Primary Email

Alternate Email

Telephone(s)

#	Telephone Number	Telephone Type
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About the Proposal

Title of Project

Proposal Information: Project Concept

Present activities, outputs, and planned outcomes for the proposed project. Describe relevance and significance of the proposed project and how it will launch new or advance existing partnerships between your institution and a Russian partner(s). Provide a brief timeline of activities and outputs (deliverables), including a site visit to the United States (if applicable). Briefly explain how the project success will be determined and measured.

Proposal Information: Team

Explain the background of key personnel from the U.S. and Russian institutions. Include any previous experience in Russia or internationally. Please define responsibilities of the U.S. and Russian personnel involved in the project. A letter of support is not required, but the proposal must indicate commitment and support for the project, including readiness of the U.S. and Russian partners to use a variety of online resources and willingness to cooperate on virtual partnerships

Proposal Information: Impact and Sustainability

Describe your strategy for sustaining the partnership beyond the grant period. Describe the broad impact of the project including a brief plan to measure progress and ensure sustainability

Budget

Upload Budget Spreadsheet

Total amount you are requesting

Total cost sharing amount

Total project cost

Review and Submit

Certification

Please read this statement and indicate your certification below:

I certify that:

- I completed this application;
- Everything in this application is complete and true to the best of my knowledge; and
- I understand that my application is in no way an offer or a guarantee of an offer for a UniVIP grant.

Certified by: