

## RAPID RESPONSE VIRTUAL EXCHANGE/COIL TRANSFORMATION LAB: U.S.–NORWAY

### OVERVIEW

The American Council on Education (ACE) and the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education (Diku), with support from the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research, are partnering to provide rapid response, intensive virtual exchange/collaborative online international learning (COIL) online training to U.S. and Norwegian higher education institutions starting in late October 2020.

The online training program seeks to provide U.S. and Norwegian partner institutions the skills and resources to adapt their education or exchange programs in the current global conditions into quality-assured, high-impact virtual exchange/COIL programming.

### 1. ELIGIBILITY

Only U.S. and Norwegian higher education institutional partnerships that are supported by Diku's Partnership Program with North America are eligible to apply.

Note: Institutions with previous virtual exchange (VE)/COIL experience are eligible to apply, but must make a compelling case for why the rapid-response VE/COIL Transformation Lab is necessary. Priority will be given to institutions with no prior VE/COIL experience.

Proposed VE/COIL courses may be existing or new courses in any academic discipline related to the research-based/evidence-based project of Diku's Partnership Program with North America. The partner institution's course may either be from the same discipline or a different one. Faculty from selected institutions will work together to develop a joint syllabus for the duration of their COIL collaboration.

Applicants must demonstrate institutional commitment and capacity and identify a three-member campus team in the U.S. and in Norway to participate and collaborate in the VE/COIL training and implementation, consisting of:

- One lead faculty course instructor
- Up to two international education program administrators responsible for international partnership activities
- A COIL coordinator or instructional designer who will assist the lead faculty course instructor

Only one institution is required to complete and submit an application on behalf of the COIL partnership.

Deadline: Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis. The deadline to submit a proposal is **Friday, October 16, 2020 by 5:00 p.m. U.S. Eastern Time.**

## 2. SELECTION CRITERIA

The most competitive proposals will demonstrate evidence of:

**Institutional Collaboration:** Evidence of institutional ties through the Diku Partnership Program with North America and an explanation of how participation in the Rapid Response VE/COIL Transformation Lab will sustain collaboration between faculty and students at both institutions. This includes flexibility in accommodating partner institution's schedule, communication methods, academic policies, and other differences.

**Institutional Commitment:** A demonstrated institutional commitment to expanding opportunities for greater numbers of students to gain global knowledge, skills, and attitudes, and a desire to use technology for that purpose.

**Adaptability:** Innovative and flexible plans to utilize existing institutional resources, including administrative structures, staffing, and communication technologies to effectively carry out VE/COIL.

**Assessment:** A plan for evaluating VE/COIL's impact on student learning, growth, and development, including intercultural competency, and subsequent participation in U.S.- or Norway-focused activities on campus, education abroad, internships, and/or similar opportunities following completion of the COIL course or module. At the institution level, a plan for evaluating any changes in relation to faculty and staff professional development, curriculum, and education requirements; global partnership engagement; global talent development; and identity of the institution (at the mission and strategy level).

**Equity:** Demonstrate the potential for expanding opportunities beyond for greater numbers of students enrolled at their institutions to gain international exposure, particularly those traditionally underrepresented in higher education and in education abroad.

**Sustainability:** Applicants should demonstrate interest in establishing or strengthening lasting VE/COIL connections with their partner institution, its students, faculty, and administration. The potential for introducing additional VE/COIL courses with their counterpart, as well as connecting VE/COIL with other collaborative opportunities in the long term (e.g., education abroad, student or faculty exchange, joint research, joint or dual degree programs).

**Institutional Diversity:** Other factors being equal, and to the extent possible, institutions will be chosen to represent a broad geographic distribution within the United States and Norway to represent diverse institution types (e.g., private, public, national, community colleges, minority serving institutions), as well as mission, academic program focus, and size.

## 3. SELECTION PROCESS

ACE will work with a panel of VE/COIL experts to review submissions. Selected institutions will be **notified by October 23, 2020**.

## 4. GRANT AWARD

**Faculty stipends.** Instructional faculty members from selected U.S.-Norway institutional pairs will each receive a stipend of \$1,000 (up to \$2,000 per institutional pair).

**Faculty matching.** ACE and Diku will facilitate faculty partner matching as requested in accordance with faculty profiles and interests, previous experience with COIL/virtual exchange, and other factors. Faculty will be encouraged to work with existing partner institution faculty.

**COIL/VE Online Training Workshop.** Three-member teams from each selected institution and their partner institution will participate in a three-week online training from October 26 to November 20, 2020. The online training will incorporate two parallel courses: one custom designed for faculty instructors and the other for administrators.

Instruction will be provided in the English language.

Faculty will begin developing their shared COIL course or module learning objectives and assessment plan with their counterparts during the three-week online training.

International education administrators will work with their counterparts to share best practices in:

- Aligning VE/COIL goals and objectives with institutional immediate needs as well as long-term mission and internationalization goals
- Ensuring development and delivery of high-quality, online learning experiences that align with competencies and skills for today's workforce
- Establishing/sustaining resilient working relationships with their global institutional partners

## MENTORED PRACTICE

Up to five hours of additional time with experienced senior leadership, faculty, and instructional design mentors will be available to each institutional team. This can be used to further refine strategic planning or to redesign elements of the planned VE/COIL course, and/or to support the running of the course.

## WEBINARS

Along with the additional mentoring, webinars will be provided to selected institutional teams, covering topics like managing communications breakdowns; helping students dig deeper in their cultural understanding, mentored reflection, and other forms of evaluation; talking about COIL with colleagues; and repeating COIL courses in future semesters.

## PREMIUM ACCESS TO TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

The professional development training for U.S. and Norwegian faculty and administrators will take place on *ImmerseU*, the first all-in-one virtual exchange platform, developed by *Class2Class*. Host institutions will be given free access to the *ImmerseU* platform for the duration of the program to connect, create, and manage their university collaborative online courses.

U.S. and Norwegian higher education institution leadership and senior international education administrators will also receive for the duration of the program a free subscription to ACE Engage—an online platform enabling higher education leadership to access on-demand content, courses, and podcasts and to collaborate and share best practices on a wide variety of higher education issues and topics.