

CALL FOR TRANSFORM4EUROPE VISITING PROFESSORSHIPS

As part of the Transform4Europe Alliance, the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) and the Universidad de Alicante (UA) are launching a joint call for applications for visiting professorships. This initiative aims to enhance academic collaboration and strengthen the European Education Area, welcoming distinguished scholars from outside the T4EU Alliance.

The Transform4Europe University Alliance¹ seeks to establish a new model of transnational university collaboration and contribute to the advancement of the European Education Area. The Alliance comprises 11 universities from different regions in Europe:

- Saarland University (Germany)
- The University of Alicante (Spain)
- The Estonian Academy of Arts (Estonia)
- The University of Silesia in Katowice (Poland)
- Sofia University St. Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria)
- The University of Trieste (Italy)
- Vytautas Magnus University (Lithuania)
- Jean Monnet University (France)
- University of Primorska (Slovenia)
- Universidade Católica Portuguesa (Portugal)
- Mariupol State University (Ukraine, associated partner)

1. GOAL

The Visiting Professorship initiative aligns with Transform4Europe's goal of educating knowledge-entrepreneurs capable of driving transformation in sustainable and resilient European societies. The visiting professors will engage in teaching activities at UCP and UA, focusing on:

- Digital transformation and smart regions
- Environmental transformation and sustainability
- Societal transformation, community building, and inclusion

¹ Learn more about the Alliance:

<https://transform4europe.eu/>

<https://www.facebook.com/Transform4Europe/>

<https://www.instagram.com/transform4europe/>

2. OBJECTIVE

The Visiting Professorship initiative addresses the Transform4Europe specific objective to connect the Alliance with external academic ecosystems at European and global level. Therefore, it seeks to attract academics from outside the Alliance for teaching purposes who can provide expertise complementary to the expertise available within the Alliance. The visiting professors will be hosted by two T4EU partner universities.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The Visiting Professorship is open to distinguished academics holding the position of professor and/or researcher (Emeritus Professor, Professor, Associate Professor, or a high-level researcher) at their home educational and/or research institution. The candidates are expected to exemplify academic excellence demonstrated by their scholarly expertise and impactful publication output; effective teaching that nurtures intellectual curiosity and fosters critical thinking; integrity and high academic standards; leadership and a genuine passion for advancing knowledge and transforming lives.

More specifically, the candidates have to be able to demonstrate academic excellence in one, or more, of the three priority areas of the Alliance: Digital transformation and smart regions; Ecological transformation and sustainability; Societal transformation, community building and inclusion; or in any other area identified by the host universities and considered as relevant to the Alliance. Affiliation to T4EU values, intercultural competence and a knowledge entrepreneurial mindset will be considered an asset.

The T4EU Visiting Professorship Call welcomes candidates affiliated to educational and/or research institutions outside of the Transform4Europe Alliance regardless of the country of origin.

4. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES

The Visiting Professorship award envisages teaching and extracurricular activities specified by the two host universities. The selected visiting professor will be required to engage in teaching activities according to the planned program of the mobility at the host universities. They will conduct lectures/seminars in their field of expertise and employ innovative interactive approaches to engage their audience. In addition to the teaching

activities, the visiting professors are expected to actively engage in networking and explore potential collaborative research opportunities in areas of mutual interest to the sending and the host institutions as well as to the Alliance as a whole.

They are encouraged to engage with and/or reach out to the broader community by giving public talks, participating in conferences, organizing workshops, among other activities. Where feasible, visiting professors will commit to communicate and enhance the visibility of the Alliance universities internationally.

5. DURATION AND CONDITIONS

The Visiting Professorship can last from 4 days to 1 month at each university, with flexibility to split the visit across different academic semesters.

Visiting professors are invited to complete a visit in the fall and spring semesters of the 2025/2026 academic year or in spring of the 2026/2027 academic year.

The visit must be completed by the end of the spring semester 2026/2027.

6. FUNDING

Funding will be provided by UCP and UA, following national regulations. The universities will cover:

- all travel, living, and accommodation costs

7. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Applicants must submit an online application, which includes:

- A detailed curriculum vitae in English
- A teaching and relates activities working plan
- A proposal for future collaboration with the Alliance
- Proof of employment at the home institution
- Invitation letters from UCP and UA confirming the visit and planned activities.

8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications need to be submitted by May 31st 2025 and the final result will be made public by July 1st 2025.

9. SELECTION CRITERIA

The Visiting Professorship is awarded on the basis of a competitive independent application process. The visiting professors will be hosted by at least two T4EU partner universities. Candidates addressing one or more of the three focus areas or the topic of knowledge entrepreneurialism will be prioritized.

The following criteria will be taken into consideration in the evaluation of applications:

Quality (40 points)

- Thematic relevance and quality of the working plan
- Added value of the proposed mobility plan
- Innovative and interdisciplinary approach

Contribution to Transform4Europe goals (30 points)

- Capacity to expand and strengthen collaboration between Transform4Europe universities and the international community as part of the Alliance's academic and research growth
- Capacity to promote and enhance the visibility of the Alliance

Impact (30 points)

- Capacity to reach out to a variety of target audiences (i.e. students, fellow academics, external stakeholders, etc.)
- Ability to engage in collaborative research within the priority areas of the Transform4Europe alliance
- Ability to establish and maintain academic networks for knowledge transfer and scholarly collaboration in the long run.

10. HOSTING TEAMS

The Visiting Professor will be welcomed by the host teams of both universities, who will coordinate their integration into the teaching units aligned with their expertise. Special consideration will be given to opportunities for cross-disciplinary and transdisciplinary activities, which bring added value to the collaboration. Such engagements will be regarded as an additional asset, enhancing the impact and scope of the visiting professorship.

Applications can be made to any departments/faculties available at both universities.

Details about:

- the time and the exact duration of the visit (at least four working days excluding the days for travel)
- the envisaged workload (teaching and extra-curricular activities)
- funding of the visit (travel and accommodation)

will be jointly decided by Universidade Católica Portuguesa and the Universidade de Alicante on a case-by-case principle.

12. HEALTH INSURANCE

It is essential to have medical insurance coverage during your stay in a foreign country. If the visiting professor holder is from a Member State of the European Union, he/she should have the European Insurance and Health Card updated.

For the University of Alicante

The beneficiary will be responsible for health care insurance.

For the Universidade Católica Portuguesa

The beneficiary will be responsible for arranging his/her health care insurance.

13. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further inquiries, please contact:

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