

CALL Nº04/2025**Selection for T4EU Week courses, Saint-Etienne, France**

Considering that Universidade Católica Portuguesa is one of the 10 members of the Transform4Europe Alliance.

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Transform4Europe Alliance (www.transform4europe.eu) regarding the implementation of activities to be carried out by the Universidade Católica Portuguesa, namely the T4EU Week.

Considering that at least 5 students from Universidade Católica Portuguesa are to participate in the Transform4Europe Week (T4EU Week) scheduled to take place from May 19th to 23rd 2025, in Saint-Etienne, France.

The following conditions are determined for the special scholarship for T4EU Week courses referring to Work Package 2 - Task 2.2 of the Alliance's Work program.

I - EVENT DETAILS

1. Name: Transform4Europe Week (T4EU Week) Design in all its Forms"
2. Date: from May 19th to 23rd 2025
3. Place: in Saint-Etienne, France
4. Organization: Jean Monnet University

II - DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications: February 25th to March 23rd, 2025

Validation and selection: until March 28th, 2025

Disclosure of Results: until March 31st, 2025.

III - COURSES

- I. The program offers 8 courses to choose from (full description on ANEX I):

1. **Bio Design:** from nature optimization to human design & nature inspired biomimetic design surfaces for biomaterials

Description: This course explores how nature optimizes and designs tissues, structures, and movements. Students will study examples of biomimicry, including human biomimicry, and further develop their understanding through guided tutorials.

Subject area: Biomedical Science and engineering, Biotechnology, Medicine and similar fields

Target group: especially for science students

2. Passing Design: Facilitating Innovation Through Design

Description: This course explores the crucial role of design in innovation, equipping participants with the skills to facilitate design processes without extensive training. It covers when and how to integrate design in projects, teaching participants to bridge design and innovation through practical tools and methods. Through online preparation and an intensive in-person session, students will delve into design thinking, user-driven innovation, and collaboration, culminating in a real-world case study.

Subject area: Design Innovation Projects

Target group: For Master 1 and beyond

Forms of teaching: practical classes (15h), online meeting (6h)

Assessment of the learning outcomes of the module: Students are asked to submit a project deliverable after two weeks.

3. Ancient design, Modern Ideas

Description: Design, in all its diverse shapes and forms, is deeply rooted in ancient times, be it architectural works, garments, or technical objects. Ancient authors and artists also showed a great interest in creating and describing decorative patterns. This course explores the evolution of design from a diachronic perspective, connecting ancient texts, images, and objects with contemporary views on design. Students will analyze and contrast historical and modern approaches, identifying both ruptures and continuities.

The course offers a unique opportunity to engage with the enduring influence of classical culture on modern design. Students will leave with a comprehensive understanding of how historical and cultural contexts shape and inspire contemporary creative practices.

Subject area: Sociology, cultural and Art studies

Target group: any interested students in Antiquity and Interdisciplinarity

4. Design: Thinking differently, designing together

Course description: This course combines theoretical learning, practical workshops, and a panel discussion to explore how design can address not only the aesthetic of functional aspects of the way we live, but also social, environmental, economic, and technological dimensions of contemporary issues. Through interactions between various stakeholders (designers, architects, engineers, users, etc.), students will learn how design relies on collaboration and shared expertise.

The course will include a series of online modules, an in-person workshops designed to foster a collective and interdisciplinary approach to solving design challenges.

Target group: Any interested students

Forms of teaching: Lectures, online module, in-person workshops, conference and panel discussion

5. Designs in the European Union: Legal Aspects

Description: This course will examine the legal aspects of design in the European Union, focusing on the new regulation regarding Community designs, which was approved by the Council of the European Union in October 2024. The regulation includes changes to the scope of protections for designs, and the course aims to study these developments in-depth. Drawing on the case law of the Court of Justice, students will assess the legal implications of the changes for designers and businesses.

The course offers students an opportunity to understand the legal landscape and design within the EU, focusing on the new regulations and their impact on both law and practice.

Subject area: Law

Target group: 1st and 2nd year Master Students.

Prerequisites: Students will be required to read documents such as Court of Justice decisions for homework (optional)

6. Design and language: The role of words in creating forms and meanings

Description: This course explores the complex and often little-known relationship between language and design, considering language as a system of signs and design as the process of creating forms and meanings. The course will highlight how linguistics can enrich design practices, and conversely how design can offer new perspectives on language.

Through engaging with this material, students will understand the valuable intersection of language and design and how each field informs and enhances the other. Students will explore the dynamic between signs, symbols and their visual representations in the design process, broadening their approach to creative work.

Target group: Bachelor and Masters students

7. Designing Organizations to address Societal Challenges in Territories (DO-IN-ACT)

Description: This course introduces students to organizational designs as a response to social and ecological challenges within specific territories. Using the principle “Think globally, act locally”, participants will propose and develop actionable solutions tailored to their chosen contexts. The course emphasizes designing collective actions, such as organizations or initiatives, that address ecological and social transitions in tangible ways.

Target group: Any interested students

Forms of teaching: Through a combination of online modules and in-person sessions, the course culminates in the creation of practical action plans that students may implement in their own communities.

8. Design for Ecological Transformation: Laboratory for [living] Tree [as] Architecture

Description: This course addresses the urgent need for ecological practices that go beyond anthropocentric perspectives. Trees, as victims and symbols of ecological resilience, guide participants through a shift towards more-than-human, symbiotic thinking. This unique program empowers students to rethink current sustainability challenges, integrating design, architecture, and posthumanist perspectives.

How can we redefine “growth” to embrace different ecosystems and shared well-being? What are the creative potentials of trees in urban and architectural practices? By answering such questions, you’ll learn to foster collaboration across disciplines, engaging with innovative methods to drive ecological transformation.

Target group: Any interested students

Forms of teaching: Through a dynamic blend of workshops, lectures, and teamwork, participants will tackle real-world challenges aligned with the European Green Deal. Guided by international mentors, you’ll develop research concepts and creative prototypes, with an opportunity to present your work at the Venice Architecture Biennale 2025.

- II. Each student participates in **1 (one) course**, which will run the whole week, but during the application process you can rank 3 (three) courses that you would like to attend in order of desirability.
- III. Each course could have an **in-person** component and an **online** component. The in-person component will take place during the T4EU week, whereas the online component will happen before/after the week. The exact information will be sent from the course leaders after the selection process is completed.
- IV. To complete the course, it will have to pass a knowledge **test/final report**. After successful completion it will be awarded **3 ECTS** by the Jean Monnet University.
- V. The courses will mainly take place in the morning. In the afternoon, we will organize optional events, such as sports, cultural and scientific events.
- VI. Courses details:
 - a. Course language: English
 - b. ECTS: 3 (three)
 - i. **Important:** "All credits obtained within this program are deemed extracurricular within the respective Study Plan. Universidade Católica Portuguesa will recognize the 3 ECTS within the Diploma Supplement."

IV - VACANCIES

Five (5) vacancies are open, considering all 7 Courses described in item III of this document.

V - CONDITIONS OF ACCESS

1. The following criteria to apply:
 - a. Student at UCP, currently enrolled in a Bachelor, Master or PhD.
 - b. Demonstrate very good communication and comprehension skills in English by a letter of motivation.

VI - CANDIDACY

The application is made to the T4EU Student Council of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa and the Office of the T4EU Alliance at UCP, through the Internet, on the Portal: <https://www.ucp.pt/internacional/transform4europe>.

1. The application must be accompanied by the following:
 1. Fill out the application form provided at the following link before **March 23rd, 2025**: <https://forms.office.com/e/rzBs44WbYc>
- I. Write a letter of motivation, in English, justifying the reasons for your participation in the event (Maximum 500 words) answering to the following questions.
 - i. Why did you choose the 3 selected courses (list in item III)?
 - ii. What do you want to take from your participation in the T4EU Week into your academic / professional life?
 - iii. Out of the experience you will gain in the T4EU Week, what will be the added value that you will bring to UCP and the students that didn't have the opportunity to attend (a round table discussion, an exchange of bibliography, a presentation in class, etc.)?
 - iv. Include the following information:
 - a Number of Credits completed
 - b Volunteer work
 - c Interest in the Course Topic
 - d Experience in the Course Topic
- II. To be eligible, the application must meet all the items listed above.

VII - SELECTION

- 1) The conduct of the admission process and selection of candidates is the responsibility of a jury appointed by the Student Council of the T4EU of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa and the Executive Board of the T4EU Alliance of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.

- a) The jury is invariably composed of:
 - i) 2 (two) representatives of the T4EU Student Council of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa.
 - ii) 2 (two) representatives of the T4EU Office of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa:
 - iii) 1 (one) representative of the Vice-Rector of Research and Doctoral Education.
- 2) The ranking criteria to be applied are as follows:
 - a) Fulfillment of all application requirements.
 - b) Content of the Motivation Letter presented in the act of application.
 - c) The ranking criteria to be considered are as follows, not in this order:
 1. Fulfillment of all application requirements - excluding.
 2. Content of the Motivation Letter presented in the act of application, considering information provided and level of English in it - excluding.
 3. Student level representation (within the enrolled program);
 4. Gender representation.
 5. UCP's Campus representation.

VII - SCHOLARSHIP

1. The scholarship offered is a *BIP Program Erasmus+* and the value of travel (6 days and 5 nights of the T4EU Week France).
2. The remaining expenses must be covered by the selected candidate.

IX - EXCLUSION

Applications that are not accompanied by all the elements indicated, as well as those submitted after the application deadlines, are excluded outright.

X - DISSEMINATION OF RESULTS

1. The list of selected candidates will be published on the Transform4Europe page of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa:
<https://www.ucp.pt/pt-pt/internacional/transform4europe>
2. Results will be available until **March 28th, 2025**.

Lisboa, February 25th 2025.

Student Council & Management Board

[Transform4Europe | UCP Office](#)

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