# CALL FOR SELECTION
# EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students
# May 5- 8, 2026
# University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden

**PREAMBLE**

EUTOPIA is a challenge-led, student-centred, inclusive alliance of 10 like-minded universities. Our mission is to connect communities across our campuses in order to transform our universities into open, inclusive, diverse, and innovative enablers for outreach impact on societies. Our approach fosters emergence and innovation, and our shared commitments provide the coherence of our common efforts to ensure that EUTOPIA is geared towards the challenges of the future; student-centred and student-empowering; committed to the principles of openness and inclusion; at the service of society.

**PURPOSE OF THE CALL AND GENERAL REGULATIONS**

1. This call aims to select a total of **8 students from Ca' Foscari University of Venice.** The other partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance are: Babeș-Bolyai University, *Romania*; Vrije Universiteit Brussel, *Belgium*; CY Cergy Paris Université, *France*; Technische Universität Dresden, *Germany*; University of Gothenburg, *Sweden*; University of Ljubljana, *Slovenia*; NOVA University Lisbon, *Portugal*; Pompeu Fabra University, Barcelona, *Spain*; The University of Warwick, *United Kingdom*.
2. The **Innovation challenges for students:** will be held in person from May **5-8, 2026** at, hosted by University of Gothenburg (hereinafter: GU).
3. The official language of the event is **English**.
4. "Innovation Challenges" are based on the "Open Innovation Challenge" developed in the first pilot project "EUTOPIA 2050" (2019-2022), to enhance opportunities with local and regional business and industry building. EUTOPIA commits to connect and enhance expanded forms of local and regional engagement through collaborative partnerships and challenge-based initiatives, promoting regional collaboration for integration and social cohesion, with a strong focus on civic engagement and collaboration with local stakeholders capitalising on the potentialities of our creative environments and stimulate cross-disciplinary work, enhancing our portfolio of educational and research activities.
5. The " **EUTOPIA Innovation challenges for students"** is a hackathon in presence, which aims to promote students' local engagement through collaborative partnerships and challenge-based initiatives with stakeholders from public and private sectors to address real problems, leveraging the potentialities of creative environments to stimulate a cross-disciplinary work.
6. **Topic: The Sustainable City.** .

**ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

1. Applicants must be **undergraduate** (BA), **graduate** students (MA) from all degree disciplines, **regularly enrolled** at Ca' Foscari University of Venice.
2. The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status, both at the moment of application, as well as when the event will take place. The EUTOPIA Unit at Ca' Foscari University of Venice must be informed timely of any possible change in their status.
3. The entire **application** and all its **annexes** shall be **written in English**.

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4. Applicants shall submit a **full application**, composed of the following **mandatory  documents**:

    4.a.the Application form (Annex 1):

        a.i. their motivation to attend the EUTOPIA Innovation challenges for students detailing their motivation and the expected outcome of their participation;

        a.ii.  their interest in the EUTOPIA Alliance;

        a.iii.  their understanding of the topic;

        a.iv.their applied experience and reflection;

Please note that candidates who exceed the maximum word limits in their responses  will be excluded from the selection process.

    4.b.CV, written in English language: please note that candidates submitting a CV  longer than two pages will be excluded from the selection process. Certificate of  English language: any certificate can be accepted (i.e. IELTS, Cambridge or self declaration) The list of international certifications recognised by Ca' Foscari  University of Venice is available at the following link: https://www.unive.it/pag/40609/?L=1.

5. Applications shall be saved as a single PDF document (merging the academic CV, the  language certificate, etc.) and named as follows: InnovationChallenges_Surname_Name.pdf

6. Prior experience in the sector or knowledge of the specific topic is not necessary.

7. Ineligibility:

    7.a. if, at any stage in the application procedure, it is established that the information provided by the applicant has been knowingly falsified, the candidate will be disqualified from the selection process.

    7.b. students already in a mobility abroad financed by any Erasmus+ programme at the moment of the implementation of the activity, and students not regularly  enrolled cannot be considered eligible.

## ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Applicants must log in using their institutional account (*matricola*@*stud.unive.it*) and  submit their application form using the following Google Form.

2. Personal data collected through the Google Form will be processed by Ca' Foscari  University of Venice as described below in the data protection section.

3. Deadline: **March 9 at noon.** Any application received after this deadline will not  be considered.

**Applications will be rejected in the following cases:**

- submission after the deadline;
- students lacking the requirements (see Admission Requirements);
- applications lacking any mandatory documents (see Admission Requirements);
- students not regularly enrolled.

## SELECTION PROCESS

**Selection**

A selection committee will be formed at Ca' Foscari University of Venice to assess candidates  based on their motivation (including their understanding of the EUTOPIA Alliance and interest  in the topic) and their proficiency in English. The top scoring eligible candidates will be invited for an interview. The final ranking will be determined by combining the interview score with the CV score and the previously awarded points. The  final ranking will be published on Ca' Foscari website and selected students will be contacted  via email by eutopia@unive.it to confirm their participation according to the calendar  established. Candidates who fail to confirm according to the deadlines and procedures forfeit  the right to participate. A repechage procedure shall be scheduled for any places still available.

**Calendar**

- Deadline for applications: March 9 2026 at noon;
- Interview: March 17 2026;
- Publication of selected candidates: March 20 2026;
- Deadline for acceptance and confirmation of participation: March 23, 2026 at noon.

## SELECTION CRITERIA

Ca' Foscari University of Venice selection committee will select students according to the following criteria:

### Phase 1- Application form evaluation

The following criteria will be assessed based solely on the application form:
- Motivation and contribution: up to 10 points;
- Motivation to engage with the EUTOPIA Alliance: up to 10 points;
- Interest in the topic: up to 10 points;

### Phase 2 – Interview

For shortlisted candidates, the following aspects will be evaluated:
- Knowledge of English: up to 10 points;
- CV: up to 10 points;
- Interview: up to 10 points

The Selection Committee will prioritize candidates who have never participated in in-person EUTOPIA activities. Therefore, those who have previously participated in any activities/projects may only be considered if there are no other eligible candidates.

## OBLIGATIONS OF SELECTED STUDENTS

Students selected for the programme must commit to attending and actively engaging in the EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students, to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, from 5-8 May 2026.

Selected candidates must hold a valid residence permit as of the publication date of the eligible candidates' shortlist. This is essential for the university to proceed with the timely purchase of travel tickets and accommodation. If, at that time, the candidate does not hold a valid residence permit (whether expired, expiring, or in the process of renewal), they will not be able to travel and participate in the activity.

An introductory meeting with students and an online preparatory lecture may take place between 20 and 24 April. If confirmed, attendance is compulsory for all selected participants.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Ca' Foscari University of Venice will cover accommodation and travel (travel ticket, accommodation and meals not covered by the Host University, based on its own regulations). All these costs will be covered by Ca' Foscari using the EUTOPIA MORE funds.

## DATA PROTECTION

### Data protection information

Ca' Foscari University of Venice (protocollo@pec.unive.it, Dorsoduro n. 3246, 30123 Venice), in its capacity as data controller, provides the applicants with information on the processing of their personal data collected to carry out the selection procedures for the *Innovation challenges for students: discovery week, Companies based*

*Hackathon for students (Event)*. The event will  be held at VUB on 17th - 21st tNovember 2025.

The University collects applicants' personal data, such as name, surname, contact details,  academic experiences and other relevant information.

Applicants' personal data will be stored for 5 years from the time of collection.

Personal data is collected and processed to select the students that wish to take part in the Event. Only personal data of selected candidates will be shared with VUB as it is necessary  for the organisation of the event: once the students have been selected, VUB will be  responsible for managing both the data and image rights of all participants in the activity.

**MORE INFORMATION AND CONTACTS**

**Responsible for the procedure**

Dr. Mauro Cannone, Manager of Educational Programmes and Student Services Area, is  responsible for the procedure, according to Law n. 241/1990.

For further information, please contact: eutopia@unive.it


Venice                                                                                    The Manager, Dr. Mauro Cannone

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