

DD prot. N. 206004 /2026 rep. N. 2531 del 24/08/2026

Call for Participation in the EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students 2026 “Cultural Heritage”

Venice, 9 - 12 November 2026

Organised by Ca' Foscari University of Venice



Co-funded by
the European Union

1. Overview: Description and Objectives

The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenge for Students is 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.

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. The initiative will gather up to **80** participants from the full partner universities of the EUTOPIA Alliance, namely: Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, Spain), Universitatea Babeş-Bolyai (Cluj-Napoca, Romania), Vrije Universiteit Brussels (Bruxelles, Belgium), Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Venice, Italy), CY Cergy Université Paris (Paris, France), TUD Technische Universität Dresden (Dresden, Germany), Göteborgs Universitet (Gothenburg, Sweden), Universidade NOVA de Lisboa (Lisbon, Portugal), Univerza v Ljubljani (Ljubljana, Slovenia).

Participants from EU institutions are supported through EUTOPIA MORE Erasmus+ Funds. The University of Warwick (UW) is an associate partner and, together with participating members from the Global Partners of the EUTOPIA Alliance, provides institutionally-based funds to support participation.

The EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students will be hosted and organised by the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy) from the **9 to the 12 November 2026** and the topic of this edition will be “Cultural Heritage”.



2. Admission Requirements

- 2.1 This call aims to select a total of **8** candidates from Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Applicants must be undergraduate (BA) or graduate (MA) students from all degree disciplines, regularly enrolled at Ca' Foscari University of Venice. Prior knowledge or experience of a specific topic or sector is not necessary.
- 2.2 The selected candidates must hold the above-mentioned status at the moment of application and when the “EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges” takes place.

2.3 Ineligibility

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.

Applicants already in a mobility abroad financed by any EU-funded programme at the moment of the implementation of the activity, and candidates not regularly enrolled / without a valid contract, cannot be considered eligible.

3. Application Procedure

- 3.1. Applicants must log in using their institutional account (account@unive.it) and submit their application using the following [Google Form](#): the entire application **must be written in English**: applications in other languages will be rejected.
- 3.2. Applicants must submit a complete application form (Annex 1), available among the attachments on the [call for application main page on Ca' Foscari's EUTOPIA website](#)), together with the following supporting documents:

- **CV (ENG)** no longer than two pages; **Official English Language Certificate** (refer to the list of certifications recognized by Ca' Foscari University of Venice at <https://www.unive.it/pag/40609/?L=1>).
- The completed Application Form and all required supporting documents must be merged into **one single PDF file** and uploaded through the application procedure. The file must be named as follows:

InnovationChallenges_LastName_FirstName.pdf

- 3.3 Video presentation: applicants are required to submit a video presentation instead of a cover letter. The YouTube link must be inserted in the dedicated field of the **Application Form (Annex 1)**.

The video must:

- last no longer than **1 minute and 30 seconds**;
- have good audio and video quality, ensuring that the applicant is clearly visible and understandable;
- introduce the candidate's academic and/or personal background;
- explain the motivation for joining the Innovation Challenges;
- describe the specific contribution the candidate intends to bring to the initiative and to their team.

Applicants are encouraged to personalise their presentation and are free to include any additional information they consider relevant to support their application.

Privacy Settings: applicants who wish to limit public access may set the video visibility to "**Unlisted** (non in elenco)".

Link Functionality: applicants are responsible for ensuring that the link is correct, active and accessible at the time of evaluation. Videos that cannot be accessed because of broken links or permission restrictions will not be evaluated, leading to the exclusion of the candidate or forfeiture of the corresponding points.

3.4 Incomplete applications, applications missing any of the mandatory components, or files submitted in a format other than specified above will be automatically deemed ineligible.

- 3.5 Personal data collected through the Google Form will be processed by Ca' Foscari University of Venice as described below in the data protection section.
- 3.6 **Application Deadline: September 15 2026, at 12:00 PM (CEST).** Applications received after this deadline will be rejected.

4. Selection Process

4.1 Selection Procedure

A selection committee will be formed at Ca' Foscari University of Venice to assess candidates based on their motivation to participate and expected contribution to the activity and to their team. 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 scores awarded to the video presentation submitted by each candidate. 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.

4.2 Selection criteria

Valid applications will be evaluated by a Selection Committee appointed by Ca' Foscari University of Venice according to the following procedure:

1. Initial Evaluation: candidates will be assessed and scored based on their application materials (video presentation).
2. Interview: the highest-scoring eligible candidates based on the initial evaluation will be invited to an interview; the interview will provide additional score.
3. After the interview: CV and English language level will be assessed as well.

The final ranking will be determined based on the overall assessment of all these components.

4. Publication & Confirmation:
 - The final ranking list will be published on the official Ca' Foscari University website.
 - Selected students will be notified via email by eutopia@unive.it and must confirm their participation **according to the established calendar.**
 - Candidates who fail to confirm within the specified deadlines and procedures will forfeit their right to participate.
5. Repechage Procedure: Any places remaining available due to non-confirmations or withdrawals will be offered to subsequent candidates in the ranking through a repechage procedure.

4.3 Selection committees

A Selection Committee will be established at Ca' Foscari University of Venice to assess candidates' applications. As part of the selection process, the Selection Committee will conduct interviews of a shortlist of eligible candidates. Further information regarding the schedule, procedure, scoring and final ranking will be published on the EUTOPIA page of Ca' Foscari website.

4.4 Publication of Results

The results of the selection will be published on Ca' Foscari website. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted via email by eutopia@unive.it to confirm their availability for the Final selection process. **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.

5. Rights and 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 Venice, Italy, 9–12 November 2026.

An introductory meeting with students may take place before the event, in October. If confirmed, attendance is compulsory for all selected participants. Selected students will have the right to have room, board, and travel expenses covered by their home institutions, funded by the EUTOPIA MORE project.

6. Calendar

- Deadline for applications: September 15 2026, at 12:00 PM (CEST).
- Interviews: week of September 21. The exact date and time will be communicated to shortlisted candidates.
- Publication of selected candidates: September 25 2026 at 12:00 pm (CEST).
- Deadline for acceptance and confirmation of participation: September 28 2026 at 12:00 pm (CEST).

7. Data Protection

Information relating to individuals (personal data) is collected and processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (General Data Protection Regulation – GDPR).

Ca' Foscari University of Venice (protocollo@pec.unive.it, Dorsoduro 3246, 30123 Venice), as the data controller, processes applicants' personal data for the purposes of managing the selection procedure and organising the **EUTOPIA Innovation Challenges for Students**, which will be hosted by Ca' Foscari University of Venice from 9 to 12 November.

The University collects and processes applicants' personal data, including name, last name, contact details, academic information, and any other information necessary for the selection procedure and the organisation of the event.

Applicants' personal data will be retained for five years from the date of collection.

Personal data is processed exclusively for the purposes of selecting participants and organising the event. Applicants' personal data will not be transferred to other institutions for organisational purposes, but will be processed only by authorised staff and in accordance with applicable data protection legislation.

8. Contact Information

Responsible for the procedure

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

For any inquiries or additional information on this call please contact:

EUTOPIA Unit at Ca' Foscari University of Venice: eutopia@unive.it

Signature

Venice, August 2026

The Manager of the Educational Programmes and Student Services Area

Dr. Mauro Cannone

