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***University of Geneva's Innovation Fund:
Supporting Continuing Education constant
development***

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A short history of continuing education at University of Geneva 1/2

Early 1990s: Swiss Federal Council adopts strategy and financial plan to help universities develop and launch more continuing education activities

Early 2000s: the federal financial plan comes to an end → universities have to ensure the financial sustainability of continuing education programmes

Current financial scheme: tuition fees are collected to cover for the programmes direct costs, as well as overheads to cover for institutional services

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A short history of continuing education at University of Geneva 2/2

As of 2002, part of the overheads collected are channeled to an innovation fund, dedicated to supporting continuing education programmes: the Continuing Education Support and Innovation Fund (in French FIA) was born!

Originally, the fund supported the creation of new, innovative programmes
→ subsidies covered the programmes' 'investment' phase until the effective launch

A few years later, the fund started supporting programmes which were close to break-even just before launch, ensuring potential deficits would be covered

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The Support and Innovation Fund today: Strategic objectives

The fund still supports programmes before launch or re-launch and still provides insurance for potential, very limited deficits

To be qualified for funding, programmes should tackle one or more of the University's strategic objectives as elaborated in the [2025 Strategic Plan](#), with a focus on innovation, transfer to the economic and social ecosystem of Geneva and Switzerland, international Geneva, and LLL

At the same time, programmes should contribute to continuing education's main strategic objectives, namely digitalization and internationalisation

Creative, audacious, even risky projects are welcome

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The Support and Innovation Fund today: Programmes supported

For the past 3 years, mostly degree-granting programmes, with a strong digital component have been supported – the majority were new programmes, but a growing number are existing programmes being transformed

Programmes from all faculties and inter-faculty centres have been supported

Subsidies cover up to CHF 45'000 of costs during the investment phase, including market analyses, coordinator's, RA's, TA's and AA's salaries, promotion costs – few programmes ask for such amounts, the average request is CHF 15'000

Deficit insurances are much lower, up to CHF 15'000

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The Support and Innovation Fund today: Administration 1/3

The fund welcomes requests for funding all year long

Professors should draft a project proposal (see hereafter), receive the support of their dean and the rectorate and submit the request to the Centre for Continuing and Distance Education

Once cleared by the Centre, the proposal is sent to an inter-faculty commission for consultation

The VR in charge of continuing education gives the final ok

The request loop takes max. 4 weeks once the Centre receives the proposal

At the end of the project, professors are invited to submit a report or present a case study during one of the Centre's workshops

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The Support and Innovation Fund today: Administration 2/3

FIA Request form

1. General context of the project (internal initiative interne, external request for training) and overall objectives (in relation to UNIGE's Strategic Plan 2025)
2. Relevance of the project : market analysis, target audience, market valuation of training (valuation by employers, accreditation, certification)
3. Project strategic positioning : within UNIGE portfolio of continuing education programmes (including synergies with other programmes and scaling opportunities), in Geneva, in Switzerland, in Europe
4. Partnership projects : local, regional, international ; associated risks; partnership added-value
5. Feasibility analysis: calendar, expertise...
6. SWOT analysis
7. Amount requested, other subsidies requested, other financial means invested

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The Support and Innovation Fund today: Other activities supported

As of 2016, the fund also started supporting activities linked to the overall development of continuing education, such as:

- The Centre's workshops, open to all UNIGE staff managing or teaching in a continuing education programme (hereafter UNIGE CE staff)
- UNIGE CE staff's own continuing education (enrollment in relevant programmes, fees and travel stipend when relevant)
- Strategic projects, such as studies, tools development, conference organization, specific promotion campaigns

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Thank you for your attention

Questions and Answers round

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