



UNISERVITATE AWARD 2022

"Service-learning Experiences in Catholic Higher Education"

Submission Guidelines

Call for application – Rationale

"...educators cannot succeed fully in their educational action unless they commit to forming and shaping – in the people entrusted to their care – a full and real openness to the service of others, of all others, of the whole human community, starting with those who find themselves in the most exhausting and challenging situations. The true service of education is education to service. Moreover, educational research also increasingly recognizes the central dimension of service to others and the community as a tool and as an end of education itself. Think for example about the great development of Service-Learning. This kind of research shows how service can not only be a training activity among others (the importance of volunteer work in the training of young people is well recognized), but more radically how it can become the fundamental method through which all knowledge and skills can be transmitted and acquired."
(Global Compact on Education: Vademecum, 2021, p. 34¹)

The *Uniservitate* Programme opens the call for the ***Uniservitate Award 2022*** entitled "*Service-learning Experiences in Catholic Higher Education*". All Universities and other Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs) that are developing experiences able to integrate students' *academic learning* with the *service to the community* are invited to participate.

Service-learning (SL) is understood here to mean² experiences, projects, practices, courses, or institutional plans of engagement with the community, actively led by students, and intentionally articulated with the academic contents and the research programs. It is a pedagogical proposal that generates meaningful learning, and encourages knowledge based on real problems, with the objective of offering concrete solutions and fostering an integral education.

Service-learning projects not only contribute to address various social and environmental problems, but also optimize the development of knowledge, skills, and attitudes by motivating students to investigate and become involved with the social context. Service-learning projects seek to promote experiences that tend to the integral education of students as responsible citizens, critical, creative, and transforming protagonists of society –

¹ <https://www.educationglobalcompact.org/resources/Risorse/vademecum-english.pdf>

² For the purposes of the Award, the term "experience" will be used indistinctly to include projects, practices, courses, or institutional programs of Service-learning (SL). Unlike projects/practices/courses organized by a single chair or institutional or disciplinary area, "programs" are those organized in an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary manner, focused on one or more territories, and centrally coordinated within the framework of institutional decisions or policies that cover the institution as a whole.





experiences in which they can nourish their spiritual identity in an innovative way to become true agents of a “civilization of love”.

The *Uniservitate Award* aims at promoting quality service-learning practices, that is, at recognizing experiences (1) that show measurable contributions to the solution of socio-environmental problems, identified and addressed in solidarity with organizations and recipients of the community; (2) with the active participation of students in all stages of the project; (3) with a clear articulation between service and educational planning that includes specific links with the curriculum, opportunities for skills development, reflection and research.

The Award also seeks to show progress in the institutionalization of service-learning. This is achieved when it becomes a continuous, expected, valued and legitimate part of the intellectual core and the organizational culture of the institution. Therefore, we believe that the SL institutionalization requires not only the development of quality practices, but also the construction of institutional policies that integrate SL into the mission, strategies, practices, and budgets of the CHEIs.

This Award is intended as a contribution to the establishment and strengthening of this kind of initiatives and the networks among them. For this reason, we encourage everyone to present what they have done or are doing, even if it seems very small or incipient.

Objectives of the *Uniservitate Award*:

- **To highlight and make visible the SL experiences** that articulate teaching, research, and social outreach in line with the CHEIs' main mission, by joining science and faith, academic excellence, and the concrete testimony of a socially committed Institution.
- **To recognize and make visible the Catholic Higher Education Institutions** that best integrate the academic learning of students with the service to the community.
- **To identify the SL experiences currently developed in Catholic Higher Education**, in order to contribute to their promotion, replication in the system as a whole, and their massive dissemination.
- **To systematize the contributions** of those experiences able to enrich the field of knowledge of SL, its institutionalization, and its relationship with the spiritual dimension.
- **To strengthen networks** between Higher Education institutions and the various civil society, governmental, community and/or private organizations, etc.
- **To contribute to the training of professionals** who are aware of the needs of the community and committed to the construction of a more just, inclusive and fraternal society.



Terms and Conditions

- 1- The *Uniservitate Award 2022* "Service-learning Experiences in Catholic Higher Education" is open to all university and non-university Catholic Institutions of Higher Education, that have developed or are developing SL projects and/or programs between January 2019 and April 2022. The Universities-Hubs of the *Uniservitate* Programme can submit their experiences, which will be assessed by evaluators from other institutions.
- 2- The total amount of the Prize is **€84,000** (euros) to be distributed among the following regions (The total amount of the Prize is €84,000 (euros) to be distributed among the following regions:
 - **Africa**
 - **Asia & Oceania**
 - **Latin America and The Caribbean**
 - **Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East**
 - **Western Europe North**
 - **Western Europe South**
 - **The United States of America and Canada**
- 3- The *Uniservitate Award 2022* will recognize for each region mentioned above:
 - a) **two (2) First prizes that will receive 5,000 Euros** each. These funds will be awarded to the winning institutions to give continuity to the in-progress experiences or to initiate others. In addition, one (1) professor (coordinator) and one (1) student from each awarded institution will be funded to participate in the III Uniservitate Symposium (Rome, October 26-30, 2022).
 - b) **two (2) Special Mentions of 1,000 Euros** each for the institutions to develop the in-progress experiences or to initiate others.

All awardees will have to report, from an administrative and educational point of view, for the awards 12 months after the receipt.
The prizes and/or special mentions may be declared void and, consequently, may not be awarded, either for lack of presentation of experiences or for not meeting the conditions set forth in these terms and conditions.
- 4- Submissions will be received until **May 02, 2022**.
- 5- To participate it is required to submit the experience in accordance with the online form that will be available on the following webpages:
<https://www.uniservitate.org> (English) or
<https://www.uniservitate.org/es/> (Spanish).
- 6- The form will be considered valid when submitted electronically with all required fields completed through the *Uniservitate* website (www.uniservitate.org). Together with the form it will be possible and





advisable to attach evidence or testimonials of the implemented actions that can provide the evaluators with a broader and clearer picture of the of the experiences potentially nominated for the award (photos, documentation, promotional material, multimedia links, press mentions, etc.).

- 7-** It is **IMPERATIVE** that the submission of the form is endorsed with the digital signature and seal of the highest authority of the academic unit (Rector, Dean of the Faculty, Director of the University Career or equivalent). The name and contact information of the professor(s) directly in charge of the Service-learning experience must also be included.
- 8-** The authorities of the institution must detail the specific destination they commit to giving the monetary recognition of the Award, in case of obtaining it. This will be given to the winning academic unit, with the purpose of developing and extending the in-progress experience, or with the aim of starting a new one. The resources may not be used for the payment of salaries or current expenses of the institutions. If the experience is presented by more than one academic unit, these will agree on how to distribute the prize. The professors and students involved in the awarded experiences that are registered on the form will be recognized with diplomas, and in the case of the first prizes one professor and one student will receive a full scholarship to participate in the *III Uniservitate Symposium* in Rome, October 26-30, 2022.
- 9-** Participation in the *Uniservitate Award 2022* authorizes the organizers to use and reproduce applicant's texts, images, and other products for cultural, dissemination, advertising and/or promotional purposes. Sharing of images and personal data implies that the applicant obtained the necessary permissions according to the privacy laws of his/her country.
- 10-** The experiences will be assessed in first instance by evaluators specialized in SL, selected by the responsible of each Regional *Uniservitate* Hub, supervised by the CLAYSS team and the coordination team of the *Uniservitate* Programme. The final decision as to the winners in each region will be made by a Regional Jury of experts.
- 11-** The announcement of the winning SL experiences will be made by the end of July 2022.
- 12-** All institutions participating in the *Uniservitate Award 2022* accept the Terms and Conditions of this call, as well as the decisions of each Regional Jury, which will judge in sole instance and without appeal for reconsideration.