

## GUIDELINES for submitting applications for the UNISERVITATE AWARD 2026

*"Solidarity service-learning in Catholic Higher Education"*

The Uniservitate Programme invites all **Catholic Higher Education Institutions (CHEIs)** that are developing experiences integrating students' academic learning with solidarity service to the community to participate in the **Uniservitate 2026 Award: "Service-Learning in Catholic Higher Education."**

The Uniservitate Award aims to promote quality Service-Learning (SL) experiences<sup>1</sup> that is, to recognise practices that demonstrate measurable contributions to solving social problems, identified and addressed in solidarity with community organisations and beneficiaries; with active student participation at all stages of the project; and a clear articulation between the service and educational planning that includes specific links with the curriculum, opportunities for skill development, reflection, and research.

As the Award seeks to recognise advancements in the institutionalisation of Service-Learning, specific value will be placed on programmes that integrate projects and experiences developed over the years and demonstrate the incorporation of SL into the institutional policies and mission of the CHEIs.

### Objectives of the Award are:

- To recognise and give visibility to quality SL experiences that articulate teaching, research, and social outreach in line with the main mission of the CHEIs.
- To recognise students and teachers who are aware of community needs and committed to building a more just, fraternal, and supportive society.
- To recognise and give visibility to the CHEIs that best integrate students' academic learning with solidarity service to the community.
- To contribute to the promotion of good practices, for their replication throughout the system and their mass dissemination.
- To enrich the field of knowledge of SL, its institutionalisation, and its integration with the transformative spiritual dimension.

### Rules and Conditions

**1.** All Catholic Higher Education Institutions, both university and non-university, that have developed or are developing SL projects and/or programmes in **2024/2025** may participate

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**1** For the purposes of the Award, the term "experience" encompasses projects, practices, courses or institutional Service-Learning (SL) programmes indistinctly. Unlike projects/practices/courses organised by a single academic department or institutional/disciplinary area, "programmes" are considered those organised in an interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary manner, focused on one or more territories, and coordinated centrally within the framework of institutional decisions or policies that encompass the entire institution.

in the Uniservitate 2026 Award "Solidarity Educational Experiences in Catholic Higher Education."

**2. The hub universities** of the Uniservitate network may submit their experiences, which will be evaluated by evaluators from other institutions. Experiences awarded in 2022 and 2024 may not be resubmitted as such, although they may form part of applications for broader programmes.

**3. The "Uniservitate 2026 Award" will recognise, per regional hub:**

a) **Two (2) First Prizes**, which will each receive **five thousand euros (€5000)**. These funds will be awarded to the winning institutions to ensure continuity for the submitted experiences or to initiate new ones. Additionally, one (1) coordinating teacher and one (1) student will be recognised to participate in the VII Uniservitate Symposium in the city of Rome, in October 2026.

b) And **two (2) Special Mentions** of **one thousand euros (€1000)** each, so that they can continue with the submitted experiences or initiate new ones.

All award winners must render accounts, administratively and pedagogically, of the prizes 12 months after receipt, by completing a document that will be sent from the regional **hubs**.

c) If a quality institutional programme is identified, the **hub** may recognise it with **one (1) Prize for Institutional SL Programmes**, endowed with **€5000** and the trip of one representative to Rome.

The prizes and/or mentions may be declared void and, consequently, not awarded, either due to a lack of experience submissions or for failing to meet the conditions set out in these rules.

**4. Project submission will take place according to the dates established for each region, based on the general schedule agreed upon by the Programme Coordination with the Academic Council and the representatives of the **hubs**.**

**5. To participate, it is a requirement to present the experience according to the online Form that will be available on the pages: <https://www.uniservitate.org> (English) or <https://www.uniservitate.org/es/> (Spanish). For any issues, please contact: award@uniservitate.org.**

**6. The form will be considered received when it is sent with all mandatory fields completed via the Uniservitate website.**

**7. The "Uniservitate 2026 Award" will have a single instance for submitting experiences** through an online form. In this form, applicants can send information and attach evidence or testimonials of the actions implemented. This way, evaluators can have a broader and clearer picture of the submitted experiences (photos, documentation, promotional material, links to multimedia, press mentions, etc.).

**8. The evaluation will take into account the learning objectives evidenced by the project through criteria such as: the link with disciplinary content for addressing a social problem; learning based on students' concrete experience with the community; the integration of**

interdisciplinary content; the application of skills and values; the learning of new knowledge; the capacity for feedback and self-evaluation.

**9.** Similarly, the solidarity service objectives of the project will be evaluated with criteria such as: the promotion of just causes and cultural recognition, the generation of reciprocal ties with the community, the frequency of activities, the creation of networks between institutions and local organisations, the sustainability of the proposal, and the achievement of medium- and long-term social change goals.

**10.** Recognition will be given to those projects most clearly linked to the institutional identity and mission and that contribute to the spirituality and holistic formation of the students.

**11.** The institution's authorities must detail the specific purpose they commit to giving the economic recognition of the Award, should they receive it. This will be handed over to the winning academic unit to develop and extend the submitted experience or to initiate a new one. The funds may not be used for the payment of salaries or current operating expenses of the institutions.

**12.** In the case that the experience is submitted by more than one academic unit, they will agree on how to divide the prize. The teachers and students involved in the awarded experiences registered in the form will be recognised with diplomas, and in the case of the first prizes, one teacher and one student will receive a full scholarship to participate in the VII Uniservitate Symposium in Rome, in October/November 2026.

**13.** Participation in the "Uniservitate 2026 Award" authorises the organisers to use and reproduce the texts, images, and other products submitted for cultural, dissemination, advertising, and/or promotional purposes. The submission of photographs and audiovisual material is recommended, but only with the necessary permissions according to the privacy legislation of the country, which will be the responsibility of the submitting institution.

**14.** The experiences will be evaluated by qualified Service-Learning specialists selected by the managers of each Uniservitate Regional Hub, supervised by the CLAYSS team and the Uniservitate Programme coordination. The final decision regarding the winners in each region will be made by a Regional Expert Jury.

**15.** The announcement of the winning solidarity educational experiences will be made between June and September 2026, based on the schedule established for each region.

**16.** All institutions participating in the "Uniservitate 2026 Award" accept the rules of this call, as well as the resolutions of the Regional Jury, which judges in a single instance and without recourse to reconsideration or appeal.