

## **FAQ - Uniservitate Award 2026**

### **1. Who can apply for the 2026 Uniservitate Award?**

As stated in the terms and conditions, projects and programmes from Catholic higher education institutions, both university and non-university, that are currently underway or have been developed between 2024 and 2025 are eligible to apply for the Award. In the case of initiatives from institutions that are not yet members of Uniservitate, they may be integrated into the network's Membership project upon application.

This year, the Uniservitate Award builds on the experience of previous editions, held in 2022 and 2024, and adds the possibility for each region to award a special prize to programmes that institutionalise service-learning.

### **2. What is meant by 'service-learning'?**

We understand 'service-learning' (SL) to mean "practices that make measurable contributions to solving social problems, identified and addressed in solidarity with organisations and community recipients; with active student participation in all stages of the project; and a clear link between the service and educational planning that includes specific links to the curriculum, skill development opportunities, reflection and research."

Service-learning projects not only contribute to addressing various social and environmental issues, but also ensure the development of knowledge, skills and attitudes by motivating students to inquire and engage in solidarity with the social context.

### **3. What types of experiences can be submitted?**

Any experiences that put academic and educational knowledge (from lectures or academic degrees, research, outreach, or social and/or pastoral commitment) to use in serving the real and pressing needs of the community. These experiences may be organised as internships, projects, courses, and/or institutional programmes under the different categories listed below:

Outreach, Community Engagement, Social Outreach, Social Commitment, Community Commitment, Civic Commitment, University Social Responsibility, Committed Research, Participatory Action Research,

Institutional Mission and Identity, University Pastoral Care, Service Learning, Extracurricular Service, Volunteering, or Others.

#### **4. How can I submit my institution's project?**

By completing the application form available on Give Pulse via the 'Submit your experience' button on the Uniservitate 2026 Award page.

#### **5. Can I submit the project by email?**

The project must be submitted using the online application form. Institutions that have problems accessing the Internet can send an email to [award@uniservitate.org](mailto:award@uniservitate.org) so that we can help them complete the application correctly.

#### **6. Do I have to answer all the questions on the application form in order to participate?**

In order to properly evaluate the initiative, some questions are mandatory. We recommend answering ALL the questions on the form so that the jury can understand the project in its entirety and have the necessary tools to make a better assessment.

#### **7. When is the deadline for submitting my experience?**

The deadline for submitting projects is Monday, 10 April 2026, at 11:59 p.m. We advise institutions not to wait until the last minute to upload their experiences online, as problems with the Internet connection may arise that make it impossible to upload the file correctly. Application forms received after the aforementioned date and time will not be considered.

#### **8. Can supplementary material such as photos and videos be sent?**

We recommend sending photographs and audiovisual material, but only with the necessary permissions in accordance with your country's privacy legislation, which will be the responsibility of the institution sending them. The application form includes a space where you can attach files and links that support and attest to the experiences presented. Please ensure that these are freely accessible links or open files, otherwise they cannot be considered.

**9. I volunteer at the university. Can I submit a project from that institution?**

The project must be submitted by a teacher/administrator from the institution carrying out the initiative. However, volunteers can participate by encouraging and assisting with the submission of the project, completing the form and answering questions.

**10. What level of institutional support is expected for the application (letters of endorsement, links with university departments, coordinating lecturers, etc.)?**

The application must be accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the institution's authority, bearing its stamp and signature.

**11. Can more than one project be submitted per university?**

Participating educational institutions may submit more than one project, completing a form for each experience presented. In the case of institutional programmes, one submission per institution is required and may include projects submitted simultaneously on an individual basis.

**12. How many teachers/members of the educational community must be involved in the experience?**

It is a necessary condition to have a work team to carry out the project, that is, ideally there should be more than one teacher or member of the educational community involved in its execution.

**13. What are the most relevant evaluation criteria considered by the jury in this edition of the award?**

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.

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.

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.

#### **14. How should the prize money be used?**

The institution's authorities must specify how they intend to use the prize money if they win. It will be awarded to the winning academic unit for the purpose of developing and expanding the experience presented, or for starting a new one. The funds may not be used to pay salaries or cover the institutions' running costs.

In the event that the experience is presented by more than one academic unit, they shall agree on how to distribute the prize.

#### **15. What recognition will the project participants receive?**

The teachers and students involved in the winning experiences who register on 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.

#### **16. When will the winners be announced?**

The winners will be announced between June and September 2026, according to the schedule established by each node.

#### **17. Can the application form be completed in any language?**

Only forms completed in English, Spanish, and French will be accepted.

#### **18. I have closed the application form. Can I make further changes?**



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Service-Learning Experiences  
in Catholic Higher Education

Changes to the application form on Give Pulse will be saved automatically as you complete the fields. Once you have selected the 'Submit' option, you will no longer be able to make further changes, so it is very important that you review the information entered on the form before submitting it.