Call for Proposals – Lifelong Learning (LLL)

ChipTech Talent Twente Programme ('Beethoven')

Do you have an idea for **education for professionals** in the semiconductor domain and/or related manufacturing and equipment chain? We invite UT colleagues to submit proposals for **Lifelong Learning (LLL)** initiatives **as part of the ChipTech Talent programme**.

This call is open to all colleagues involved in education at the UT, regardless of role or position. We encourage contributions from teaching staff, programme directors, researchers, educational developers, support staff - willing and able to take on a role in designing and developing education in co-creation with industry.

Purpose of this call

The ChipTech Talent programme addresses the growing shortage of qualified professionals in the semiconductor sector across the full value chain: chip design, manufacturing (front-end and back-end), assembly, process to end applications, and the broader ecosystem of equipment building and related supply.

The **Lifelong Learning (LLL)** line focuses on **training, upskilling, and reskilling professionals**, and on **fostering co-learning** between industry and educational institutions. The first programme period runs 2026-2027.

This call supports demand-driven LLL solutions developed and piloted starting in 2026 and into early 2027. **We welcome a range of ideas and approaches, depending on your experience, network, and your plans.** Two parallel tracks are open. Proposals may align with either track, depending on their starting point.

Track 1 – Exploring and Validating Needs

Proposals in this track focus on engaging with industry partners to explore and better understand their professional learning needs, particularly in the fields of chip technology and High Tech Systems and Materials (HTSM) and related areas. The insights gained can serve as a starting point for the proposed LLL activity.

Track 2 – Co-creation, Development and Piloting

Proposals in this track build on identified industry needs and focus on the design and development of LLL offerings. This is done in co-creation, i.e. by jointly designing, developing, and testing/piloting with companies. This may also involve creating learning communities that unite academia and industry around shared themes.

Themes

The ChipTech Talent LLL grant focuses on three main themes, intended as guidance, not strict prescriptions:

Technological specialisations highly specific technical skills needed across the chip technology value chain	**Digitalisation & automation** including advanced manufacturing, robotics, and data-driven processes	**Multidisciplinary collaboration** addressing communication, alignment, and integration across disciplines and organisational levels

Possible topics include (non-exhaustive): cleanroom, nanotechnology, production automation, mechatronics, process engineering, embedded systems, materials science, chemical engineering, digitalisation, data analysis, optoelectronics, photonics, robotics, systems engineering, system integration, project management, human-technology interaction, data-driven collaboration, supply chains and logistics, interdisciplinary collaboration.

What do we mean by LLL?

Within this call, LLL refers to education for professionals, such as:

- Short courses, masterclasses, modules - which also can be pathways into formal learning formats
- Flexible or modular or tailored programmes responding to specific industry needs
- Stackable learning units or micro-credentials
- Open learning activities e.g. knowledge sharing sessions, knowledge platforms
- Training co-developed and/or delivered with companies (including in-company programmes)
- Learning communities
- New formats for integrating learning in the workplace

Expected outputs of projects typically include:

After track 2:

- A developed and tested LLL offering
- A concept validated with industry partners
- Concrete materials, formats, or pilots – with the possibility for scaling, repeating, tailoring

After track 1:

- A demand driven plan to develop one of the above

Scope

Proposals must **lead to industry involvement** (track 1) or **demonstrate active industry involvement** (track 2) (i.e. showed interest, existing network, identified skills needs, commitment to co-creation and/or piloting).

In addition, **collaboration across UT faculties** is expected and collaboration with **regional educational partners (UT, Saxion, ROC of Twente and related vocational schools)** is encouraged.

This call supports:

- LLL initiatives for professionals in the semiconductor domain.
- Projects across the chip technology value chain, including equipment and manufacturing supply chain.
- Co-created education with industry partners.
- Pilot projects or seed funding for scalable concepts.

Out of scope:

- Research-only projects.
- Existing education offered to professionals as-is, without additional or developmental components.
- Projects without demonstrable industry involvement.

Selection criteria for proposal assessment

Proposals do not need to present fully developed LLL concepts, but should demonstrate a clear and credible approach to working with industry partners in exploring, shaping, and/or developing LLL offerings.

Proposals will be assessed based on:

- **Industry engagement and relevance:**
  - For track 1: The envisaged involved network, and plan for exploring and validating needs.
  - For track 2: The confirmed involved network, concrete collaboration with at least one company to ensure alignment with chiptech or broader tech needs. A signed description of the collaboration with industry partners, which shows their agreed commitment to co-creation (use the provided template).
    For every 10k€ we expect at least 10 hours of in-kind contribution from one or more industry partners.
- **Approach and feasibility:** a clear, credible approach to exploration, co-creation, and development, including concrete steps to engage with industry partners (e.g. sessions, interactions, pilots) within the UT context.
- **Content quality and potential:** the strength of the thematic focus and its potential for impact and scalability within the chiptech industry.
- **Planning and lead time:** as the goal of the programme is to deliver concrete results by the end of 2027.

Conditions and practical information

- Proposals can be submitted to track 1, track 2, or both, depending on the scope of your idea.
- Both tracks fall within the current first programme phase of (calendar years) 2026-2027; a second phase is expected for (calendar years) 2028-2029.
- Funding may be requested for personnel, including student assistants, and including temporary staff to work on the LLL offer or to free up existing staff to do so.
- Execution must be aligned with the applicant's line manager.

Deadline: Submission is open on a rolling basis; deadlines: 31 July, 31 August, 30 September, 31 October 2026. Submissions will be reviewed and processed on a *first-come, first-served* basis.

	Track 1: Exploring & Validating Needs	**Track 2: Co-creation, Development & Piloting**
Focus	Explore and validate industry learning needs	Develop and pilot LLL solutions (with industry)
Starting point	Early ideas or need exploration	Clear identified industry needs
Activities	Engagement, exploration, validation	Co-creation, design, development, piloting
Output	Validated needs insight, concepts	LLL offerings, pilot, scalable concepts
Industry role	Input and validation	Active co-creation and participation
Industry commitment	Envisaged. Output track 1: commitment letter from at least 1 industry partner (preferably more)	Confirmed. Input track 2: commitment letter from at least 1 industry partner (preferably more)
Budget	Indicative up to €15,000	Indicative up to €80,000
Runtime	Indicative 2-4 months	Indicative up to 1 year
Aimed completion	Early 2027, before summer	Ultimate end 2027 (continued to 2nd phase)
When to apply	When exploring opportunities	When ready to develop and pilot

Grant recipients are expected to share results and lessons learned, contribute to knowledge exchange within and across partner institutions (UT, Saxion, ROC of Twente), and support the development of a joint LLL approach. This includes providing short interim updates (e.g. through periodic surveys) and participating in dissemination activities, such as meetings or sessions to share experiences and outcomes with colleagues across institutions and industry. A portion of the grant budget will be reserved for these activities.

How to submit your proposal

1. **Complete the proposal template**: download the **ChipTech Talent LLL - Project Proposal Form** and describe your proposal. www.utwente.nl/en/service-portal/dossiers/reinforcement-plan-chip-tech/#life-long-learning
2. **Clearly describe**: objectives and expected outcomes, industry involvement, activities, timeline, and budget.
3. **Send your proposal to**: chiptech@utwente.nl

All proposals will be evaluated by the ChipTech Talent core team, in consultation with programme management.

Decision timeline: Decisions will be communicated within a month after the month the proposal is submitted.

Need support?

We are happy to help you shape your idea or proposal.

Information:

- Information about the ChipTech Talent programme: UT dossier – ChipTech Talent Reinforcement Plan
- Information about ChipTech Talent Lifelong Learning: UT dossier – ChipTech Talent – Lifelong Learning
- Contact details: UT team – ChipTech Talent programme
- Email: chiptech@utwente.nl