

## Coordinators Expectation Guide

This document aims to help you understand our network and clarifies what a journal club and the MIND Foundation can do for you. Please read it carefully to learn what it means to organize a journal club like uniMIND. This is the start of your journey.

### What is a uniMIND journal club?

The MIND Foundation's uniMIND program consists of an **international network of academic journal clubs**. These are groups – ideally located and registered at universities – that **meet regularly to discuss academic literature**. Their members are usually **students and faculty**. Sometimes people from outside the university that have appropriate background knowledge and a genuine interest in academic discussions join the sessions.

While each uniMIND group has **at least one Coordinator** as the group's organizer, it is common practice that **every participant gets their turn** to present a publication or project. Presentation and discussion take place in a relaxed, supportive environment.

What sets uniMIND apart from other journal clubs is that you will meet people with a shared **interest in psychedelic research from different disciplinary backgrounds**. This makes it especially important to keep the **atmosphere open and accommodating**, and to allow space to **explain concepts** that might be basic in one discipline but uncommon in others.

The purpose is to learn together and from each other.

### Expectation management

Different (academic) locations come with individual requirements, such as how easy it will be to **find people interested in psychedelic research**, or how open the institution is towards our topics. Do not despair in the face of bureaucratic struggles! uniMIND has groups in over 20 countries on three continents – with a bit of perseverance, you'll make it. **We're always here to support you.**

In the beginning you might see **fluctuation in group attendance**. Don't let it discourage you. Building a routine will take time and continue to promote your group. An **ideal core group size is at 6-8 people**. Conversely, meetings with 15 or more people come with new challenges in managing group dynamics and equal access to participation.

Another topic is the load on your shoulders vs. **proactive participation by members**. You are by no means expected to deliver all the input, but **you are the group host**. You will be the leading force in a democratic environment to **determine meeting rhythms and topics**, and to **facilitate communication during and beyond the meetings**. You are of course welcome to enlist and register co-Coordinators.

We encourage you to **register your group as a proper student organization** at your university. This will make it easier to promote your group, invite seniors, book rooms, get funding for academic events and excursions, and more.

## Return of Investment

Your sustained effort in coordinating a uniMIND group will bring you and your peers a lot of benefits: it will both **aid your career** and the **advancement of psychedelic research** on the university level. Here are some of the perks:

- improve your academic skills
- learn to critically engage with multidisciplinary research
- take up a transdisciplinary approach to science
- improve your organizational skills
- added value for your CV
- demonstrate academic proactivity
- expand your academic network
- stay on top of research trends
- network in the MIND community
- foster psychedelic research at universities
- enter the psychedelic research world
- get access to unique educational materials

### What is MIND's role in uniMIND?

The MIND Foundation team will always support you in your uniMIND activities and in your academic progress. For your journal club, we provide the social network, a web-based platform (the MIND Community Platform, MCP), organizational and educational material, guidelines, recommendations for topics, our academic network (e.g., to invite speakers), funds, as well as regular input from MIND like monthly **uniMIND Central Sessions with authors**.

We also organize the **yearly uniMIND Symposium** as a mini conference for and by the uniMIND community, plus various other activities for our uniMIND Coordinators.

We hope that this document helps you understand what it means to coordinate a uniMIND group. **Feel free to contact the MIND and uniMIND team for assistance anytime.**

[unimind@mind-foundation.org](mailto:unimind@mind-foundation.org)

[community.mind-foundation.org](https://community.mind-foundation.org)

### What are the next steps?

After reading this document as well as the Code of Conduct for Coordinators, you may fill out the form to apply as a uniMIND Coordinator.

You can already think about **how you want to be contacted**. Do you want to use your private, or your university mail? Some coordinators create a new email address specifically for this purpose e.g.:

uniMIND.LocationX@gmail.com

You should already sign up on the MIND Community Platform and join the uniMIND Community in it.

We will shortly get back to you after receiving your application. You can already prepare a portrait picture of you that will be added to our overview of coordinators, and you could start thinking about how to promote your upcoming group, who to invite first.

We strongly recommend looking into the option of registering a (student) association at your university.