

OER FUND

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

oerfund.open.ubc.ca



OER Fund 2026 Funding Round General Information Session - October 21, 2025



UBC Point Grey Campus is on traditional, ancestral, unceded Musqueam Territory.



Photo: Musqueam Post, s̓ʔi:łqəy̓ qeqən (double-headed serpent post), on the UBCV Campus

Photo by UBC Brand and Marketing



CTLT

The 6R's of Indigenous OER: Re-imagining OER to Honour Indigenous Knowledge and Sovereignty

March 10, 2022

Kayla Lar-Son

▶ ⏮ 🔊 0:00 / 1:01:25



<https://youtu.be/Lwciwt-gXoQ>

OPEN ACCESS WEEK

October 2025



Discover more Open Access Week sessions:

<https://open.ubc.ca/open-access-week-2025/>



OER Excellence and Impact Awards



OER Excellence and Impact Awards



The **OER Excellence and Impact Awards** are teaching and learning awards that recognize outstanding work done by faculty at both UBC campuses who materially advance the use and impact of open educational resources in credit courses at UBC. The award program consists of **one individual** and **one team-based award** of \$5,000 each year per campus.

<https://open.ubc.ca/oer-award/>

Call for nominations!

Today's Agenda

- OER at UBC and the Affordability of Course Resources
- OER Fund Details
 - OER Affordability Grants
 - OER Rapid Innovation Grants
- Consultation Session



Open Educational Resources (OER) are **learning, teaching and research materials** in any format and medium that reside in the public domain or are under copyright that have been released under an open license, that permit **no-cost access, re-use, re-purpose, adaptation and redistribution** by others.

([UNESCO](#), n.d).





OER at UBCV

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Strategic and Funding Support for OER

- **SAC** Guide to Reappointment, Promotion and Tenure: recognized contributions to OER as evidence of educational leadership.
- **UBC Strategic Plan:** “funding and support for continued growth in open educational resources...”
- **OER Fund:** “Increase the use of OER, including assessment materials, in UBC credit courses to reduce student costs for learning materials and assessments.”
- **UBC Student Affordability Taskforce:** recommended the use of OER to help minimize the costs of educational materials



UBC Student Affordability Taskforce Recommendations

The [UBC Student Affordability Taskforce \(SATF\)](#):

“[A]ffordability remains a challenge for students through increasing costs of educational materials. Not only is this the rising costs of academic textbooks, but also the widespread adoption of digital learning materials, for example online homework systems, that require paid access to complete course assessment.”

Recommendation:

“...ensure continuation of funding streams for the adoption of Open Educational Resources into credit-based courses.”



Affordability of Course Resources

According to the [2025 AMS Academic Experiences Survey](#) (n=2,134):

- **77%** of students indicated they had bought a textbook or other course resource and didn't use it, or rarely used it.
- **29%** of undergraduates frequently or often went without textbooks or other course resources due to cost
- **25%** of students expressed financial hardship related to the costs of textbooks and course materials
- **46%** of respondents reported harboring feelings of worry in the past year that they wouldn't be able to afford adequate groceries





OER Fund Details

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OER Fund Principles (Goals)

- Reduce student costs for learning materials and assessments.
- Increase the use of high-quality OER, including assessment materials, in UBC credit courses.
- Enable instructors to provide meaningful, contextualized learning materials for UBC students.
- Engage with the UBC community to increase awareness of OER and to grow capacity at to support and sustain OER activities.

2026 OER Fund Priorities

Projects that...

- Use OER to address the affordability of course materials and result in cost savings for students.
- Increase the accessibility of course materials through the use of OER.
- Enhance student learning through the innovative use of open pedagogies and open resources.
- Involve students in the development and/or implementation of the OER.
- Develop open test/quiz/problem banks and other interactive content that can be used for assessments.
- Have high student impacts as indicated by student enrolment in courses where the resources will be used (as appropriate for the field of study).
- Use OER in multi-section courses or multiple courses.

OER Rapid Innovation Grants

- Small grants of up to \$2,000, which are available to the UBCV community for innovative activities that increase OER development, awareness, and capacity building.
- Ongoing, non-competitive until fund is used up (~12 projects)



Application deadline is rolling; proposals are reviewed every 4-6 weeks.

OER Affordability Grants

- Supports the use of OER to address the affordability of course resources for UBCV Students
- Funding for the creation, adaption, and use of OER in UBCV Credit Courses
- Grant proposals can request up to \$25,000 (~7-8 projects funded/yr)
- Supports Faculty Course Release



Application deadline is January 15, 2026 at 3pm

Proposals will be reviewed on the following criteria:

- The extent to which the proposal provides a clear rationale, methodology, and objectives that align with the OER Fund Principles and Priorities
- The articulation of project outputs that are well defined and achievable
- The alignment of the project with effective teaching and learning practices
- Engagement with equity, diversity and inclusion in terms of the proposed OER and/or the practices for its development and use
- The plans for the evaluation and sustainment of any OER that is developed through the grant.

Requirements of Funded Proposals

- Resources developed with the support of the OER Fund must have an open copyright license (e.g., Creative Commons) and shared in a way that allows for reuse.
- Resources supported through the development of the OER Fund Affordability Grants must be used as required materials in credit courses
- If students develop the teaching and learning materials as a part of their coursework, appropriate communication and permissions must be provided
- Developed resources will follow the guidelines in the Open UBC OER Accessibility Toolkit.
- Grant recipients will provide a short project conclusion report.



Workshops and Project Support

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Types of Support Available from the UBC Library & CTLT

- Idea and proposal consulting
- Identification, Curation, and Evaluation of Existing OER
- Copyright Review and Support for Third-Party Materials
- Instructional, Learning, Open Resource Design Support
- Pressbooks and Open Textbook publishing
- OER Technology & Other Platform Support (Wiki, UBC WordPress, etc)
- Course Integration Support
- Sharing, Archiving, and Discoverability Support
- Evaluation Consulting/Support



Upcoming Workshops and Consulting Sessions

Writing your TLEF & OER Fund Evaluation Section: TLEF & OER Fund Application Preparation and Consultation



- October 22, 2025
- 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm
- Online

Register Here:

<https://events.cctl.ubc.ca/events/writing-your-tlef-oer-fund-evaluation-section-tlef-oer-fund-application-preparation-and-consultation/>

Project Impact Evaluation - Questions to Consider

Impact

- What are the specific benefits to student learning? To instructors?
- How will the benefits be sustained beyond the life of the project?



Evaluation

- What is the alignment between your stated objectives/impact and evaluation plan?
- How will you know whether you have achieved your goals?
- What evidence will you collect to demonstrate this?
- How might your evaluation approach inform revisions in an iterative manner through the life of the project?

More info available at <https://oerfund.open.ubc.ca/eval-reporting/>

OER Fund Consulting

Proposal Development Consultations

- The CTLT is offering online drop-in sessions for applicants who are planning on submitting OER Fund and TLEF project proposals through January 2025.



OER Accessibility Clinics

- Drop-in to chat one on one with specialists about how to design or adapt OER so they are accessible and open to all.

1:1 Consulting

- One on one or group consulting on any aspect of OER is available.

<https://events.ctlt.ubc.ca/event-category/open-education/>

OER Accessibility Support Pilot

- Accessibility benefits all learners - even those who don't necessarily identify as having a disability
- Accessibility benefits instructors - “future-proofed” course materials that are more durable and easier to port to new/different platforms
- Accessibility benefits the OER development process - a few simple choices in early planning stages can save *lots* of time and labour later on

OER Resources To Share - We're Here To Support You

- Accessibility 101: UBC's accessibility resource for digital content:
<https://accessibility.ctl.ubc.ca/>
- OER Accessibility Toolkit: a great place to start!
<https://open.ubc.ca/oer-accessibility-toolkit>
- ac.deger@ubc.ca - email any time with questions, for more resources/ideas, or to set up a Zoom consultation
- [OER Accessibility Clinics](#) on Zoom every other week - RSVP or just drop in!



Other OER Grants

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Small TLEF

Supports grassroots projects that are intended to support experimentation with pedagogical approaches that have strong potential to enhance learning (up to \$50,000).



2026/27 Priority Area - Inclusion

- Create, adapt, or integrate open educational resources to make education more affordable and accessible to students.

<https://tlef.ubc.ca>

Proposals Due: November 13th, 3pm

ALT-2040 Fund OER Stream

Funding STREAM 1

Open Educational Resources (OER) focus



Up to \$15,000 may be requested for projects focused on developing or adapting OER (e.g., open textbook, digital content, course assessments, course assignments) or incorporating open educational practices in one or more courses.

Up to \$25,000 may be available for projects that create significant OERs to address a **program or multi-course level benefit** (e.g., significantly reduce educational materials cost while improving student learning outcomes).

December 15, 2025: Application submission deadline for full proposals



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