

OER Fund 2027 Funding Round

General Information Session - October 27, 2026

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UBC Point Grey Campus is on traditional, ancestral, unceded Musqueam Territory.
Photo: Musqueam Post, sʔi:ɬqəy̓ qeqən (double-headed serpent post), on the UBCV Campus
Photo by UBC Brand and Marketing



https://youtu.be/Lwciwt-gXoQ

Today's Agenda

- OER at UBC and the Affordability of Course Resources
- OER Fund Details
  - OER Affordability Grants
  - OER Rapid Innovation Grants
- Supports Available
- Slides can be downloaded from:



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).



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OER at UBCV

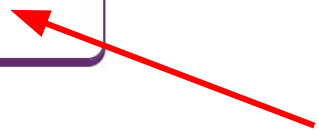
Affordability of Course Resources

According to the 2026 AMS Academic Experience Report (n=2,146):

- **62%** of students indicated they had bought a textbook or other course resource and didn't use it, or rarely used it.
- **53%** of undergraduates went without textbooks or other course resources due to cost
- **21%** of students expressed financial hardship related to the costs of textbooks and course materials
- **37%** of respondents reported harboring feelings of worry in the past year that they wouldn't be able to afford adequate groceries

Here are your educational costs for year one based on your citizenship, campus, and program selections.

Tuition	Student fees	Books and supplies
Based on a full 30-credit course load for the academic year.	Includes U-Pass, basic health insurance, and more.	Includes textbooks and other course materials required for your program.
$6,201.00 CAD	$1,332.87 CAD	$2,200.00 CAD



From UBC First Year Cost Calculator for Arts Students in 2026

“[Students] perceived the open textbook to be of the same or better quality than commercial textbooks...many of them appreciated the fact that the textbook was customized to this particular course—which is made possible by the use of a textbook with an open license.”

Hendricks, C., Reinsberg, S,. and Rieger, G. (2017). *The Adoption of an Open Textbook in a Large Physics Course: An Analysis of Cost, Outcomes, Use, and Perceptions*. International Review of Research in Open and Distributed Learning. Retrieved from http://www.irrodl.org/index.php/irrodl/article/view/3006/4220:

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.”



OER Fund Details

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 and to support and sustain OER activities.

2027 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 14, 2027 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



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

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

- 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.ctlt.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



OER Excellence and Impact Awards



Call for nominations!

The **OER Excellence and Impact Awards** are teaching and learning awards that recognize outstanding work done by faculty materially advance the use and impact of OER 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/

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



https://oerfund.open.ubc.ca | oer.fund@ubc.ca