Overview of UVic Grants Supporting Learning and Teaching

Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI)
University of Victoria
October 21, 2019

The University of Victoria recently approved A Strategic Framework for the University of Victoria: 2018-2023. The framework outlines the university’s vision, values and priorities. “We will be the Canadian research university that best integrates outstanding scholarship, engaged learning and real-life involvement to contribute to a better future for people and the planet (p.2)” To provide support for these goals, UVic continues to offer resources designed to encourage activities that will significantly improve academic engagement, achievement, and success of undergraduate and graduate students. Part of that support is in the form of grants in support of learning and teaching.

1. **Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grants** – SoTL grants support empirical research on the impact of teaching practices on student learning. Proposals for a SoTL grant are evaluated on the basis of the quality of the research question, the feasibility of the methodology to answer the research question, the potential contribution of the research to the improvement of pedagogy, and the potential impact on the learning of UVic students. Those who are proposing projects aimed primarily at researching the impact of a teaching innovation on student learning should apply for a SoTL grant.

   **SoTL Grant Criteria:**
   - Goals are articulated in terms of student success;
   - Inquiry question is clear and well-considered;
   - Plan for gathering significant results is clear;
   - Assessment plan is appropriate;
   - Potential for impact is high; and,
   - Plan for disseminating the findings to appropriate audiences is clear.

   The deadline for SoTL grant applications is May 21, 2020. Connect to the SoTL Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information.

2. **Course Design/Redesign (CDR) Grants** – CDR grants support designing or redesigning and implementing a new or revised course. The CDR grants are course specific and are intended to encourage faculty to update and renew existing courses as well as to develop new innovative course offerings. Applying principles of instructional design, grant recipients are expected to develop course intended learning outcomes, align learning activities and assessments with intended learning outcomes, incorporate active and/or participatory learning strategies, and adhere to principles of Universal Instructional Design. **(See also Universal Design for Learning)**. Those who are proposing projects aimed at improving a particular course should consider the CDR grant. There are two rounds of adjudication for CDR grant proposals.

   **CDR Grant Criteria:**
   - Project goals are clear and connected with the current literature;
• Intended student learning outcomes are clear;
• Application of learning principles and principles of Universal Design for Learning are clear;
• Strategies for active learning and student engagement are clear; and,
• Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken.

The deadlines for the CDR grant applications are January 6, 2020 and (tentative) May 21, 2020. Connect to the CDR Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information. Those who are proposing projects aimed at improving student learning in a particular course and empirically documenting the impact on student learning should consider a SoTL grant (see above).

3. Strategic Initiative Indigenous (SI-I) Grants — SI-I grants are intended to support faculty and staff to substantially revise programs, courses, curricula or learning resources that will help fulfill UVic’s commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Colonialism has served to privilege certain voices over others within academic institutions as in the broader society. These grants are focused on improving or enhancing understanding of Indigenous ways of knowing and being, deconstructing colonialism and decentering unequal colonial knowledge structures, and promoting reconciliation of power relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Those who are proposing projects aimed at supporting UVic’s commitment to reconciliation with Indigenous peoples should consider an SI-I grant.

SI-I Grant Criteria:
• Project context and student learning outcomes are clear;
• Enhancement of student learning potential is clear;
• Decolonization/Indigenization goals and pathways are clear;
• Literature survey and self-preparation are relevant;
• Plan for disseminating the findings to appropriate audiences is clear; and,
• Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken.

The deadlines for the SI-I grant applications are January 9, 2020 and (tentative) May 27, 2020. Connect to the SI-I Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information.

4. Strategic Initiative International (SI-INT) Grants — SI-INT grants are intended to encourage members of the university community to substantially update and renew existing courses and programs to reflect principles of internationalization. Projects designed to improve or enhance student learning or to fill a gap in curriculum or to enrich and strengthen global mindedness in teaching are encouraged. Those who are proposing projects aimed at supporting UVic’s commitment to internationalization should consider an SI-INT grant.

SI-INT Grant Criteria:
• Project goals and motivation are clear;
• Student intended learning outcomes are clear and specific;
• Literature review is relevant to the project;
• Project goal(s) support one or more objectives of the UVic International Plan;
• Application of known learning principles in the project is clear;
• Suggested conditions for students’ active learning and engagement are clear and feasible;
• Plan for disseminating the findings to appropriate audiences is clear; and,
• Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken.

The deadlines for the SI-INT grant applications are January 9, 2020 and (tentative) May 27, 2020. Connect to the SI-INT Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information.

5. **Experiential Learning (EL) Grants** – The EL Grants are an expansion of the Community-Engaged Learning Grant and aim 1) to increase opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning, and 2) to build capacity for experiential learning at UVic. The EL Grants will support three EL streams: Community-Engaged Learning (CEL), Field-Based Learning (FBL) and Research-Enriched Teaching (RET). The EL Grants also supports small contingency costs associated with fostering reciprocal relationships through the CEL Emergent Activities Fund.

**EL Grant Criteria:**
- Includes a comprehensive budget outlining requested funding and how funding will be used. Further, the proposed activities in the plan are tangible and achievable, and maintain exemplary academic integrity.
- Clearly proposes an experiential learning opportunity that:
  - is meaningful and substantial in purpose, time dedication and activity;
  - is tied to module, course and/or program intended learning outcomes;
  - includes critical/deep reflection; and,
  - includes appropriate forms and levels of assessment.
- Clearly articulates the breadth and depth of the project impact(s) in relation to the student learning experience and where applicable to the community benefit. Further, clarifies how these impacts will be measured.
- Clearly articulates how the project will be shared for the capacity building of others.

CEL and where applicable, FBL Applications will also be adjudicated on the following criterion:
- Clearly outlines the relationship with community as pertaining to the proposed endeavour and thoughtfully considers how respect and reciprocity will be encouraged and nurtured throughout the project.

The deadline for EL grant applications is January 6, 2020. Connect to the EL Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information.

There is no deadline for the CEL Emergent Activities Fund.

6. **Open Educational Resources (OER) Grants** – OER grants support the development, adaptation, or adoption of open educational resources for undergraduate students. Funded jointly by The University of Victoria Students’ Society (UVSS), more specifically the 2019 Grad Class Executive, the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI), UVic Libraries (Libraries) and University Systems, OER grants aim to replace existing expensive textbooks or educational resources with open access alternatives.

**OER Grant Criteria:**
The deadline for the OER grant applications is (tentative) May 22, 2020.
Connect to the OER Grant Guidelines and Application Form for more information.
Consultation – We encourage prospective applicants for all grants to consult with the LTSI for clarification and answers to questions.

Upcoming Workshops for January 2020 Grant Deadlines
Open to everyone interested in applying for a Learning and Teaching Grant

- **Overview of LTSI Grants in Support of Learning and Teaching**
  This session is a general overview of the LTSI grants. The session is designed to help potential applicants decide which grant is most appropriate and to answer questions.
  **Monday, October 28, 2019, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, HHB 128**

- **Applying for a SI-I Grant**
  This session will go through the SI-I Grant Guidelines and Application Form to answer questions of potential SI-I Grant applicants.
  **Monday, November 4, 2019, 10:00 - 11:30 AM, HHB 128**

- **Applying for a EL Grant**
  This session will go through the EL Grant Guidelines and Application Form to answer questions of potential EL Grant applicants.
  **Tuesday, November 5, 2019, 10:00 - 1:30 PM-3:00 PM, HHB 128**

- **Applying for a SI-INT Grant**
  This session will go through the SI-INT Grant Guidelines and Application Form to answer questions of potential SI-INT Grant applicants.
  **Tuesday, November 12, 2019, 1:00 – 2:30 PM, HHB 128**

- **Applying for a CDR Grant**
  This session will go through the CDR Grant Guidelines and Application Form to answer questions of potential CDR Grant applicants.
  **Thursday, December 5, 2019, 1:30 – 3:00 PM, HHB 128**

To access this document with active links to grant guidelines and application forms, point your browser to:  
https://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/faculty/grants/learning/index.php