

# Overview of UVic Grants Supporting Learning and Teaching

Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI)

University of Victoria

The [Strategic Framework for the University of Victoria: 2018-2023](#) 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 enable the fulfillment of 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 effort is in the form of grants in support of learning and teaching.

## Contents

1. Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) Grants.....	1
2. Experiential Learning Fund (ELF) Grants.....	1
3. Open Educational Resource (OER) Grants.....	2
4. Strategic Initiative Indigenous (SI-I) Grants.....	3
5. Course Design/Redesign (CDR) Grants.....	3
6. Strategic Initiative International (SI-INT) Grants.....	4
7. Consultation.....	4

## 1. Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) Grants

Anti-Racism Initiative (ARI) 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 anti-racism and the values of equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) as set out in the [Strategic Framework](#).

### ARI Grant Criteria

- Project context and student learning outcomes are clear, i.e., clear statement of what the applicant would like to achieve
- Enhancement of student learning potential is clear, including well-articulated plan for how to proceed and principles that will guide the process
- Literature survey supports the plan, and self-preparation is relevant
- Anti-racism goals and pathways are clear
- Plan for disseminating the findings to appropriate audiences is clear
- Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken

**The deadline for ARI grant applications is February 8, 2021.** Connect to the [ARI Grant Guidelines and Application Form](#) for more information.

## 2. Experiential Learning Fund (ELF) Grants

The ELF Grants aim 1) to increase opportunities for students to participate in experiential learning and 2) to build capacity for experiential learning at UVic. The ELF Grant supports **Community-Engaged Learning (CEL)**, **Field-Based Learning (FBL)** and **Research-Enriched Teaching (RET)** initiatives. The ELF Grant also supports small contingency costs associated with fostering reciprocal relationships through the **CEL Emergent Activities Fund**.



### **ELF Grant Criteria**

- 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
  - 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
- 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 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 ELF grant applications is March 1, 2021.** There is no deadline for the CEL Emergent Activities Fund. Connect to the [ELF Grant Guidelines and Application Form](#) for more information.

## **3. Open Educational Resource (OER) Grants**

OER grants support the development, adaptation, or adoption of open educational resources for undergraduate students. A joint partnership between the Division of Learning and Teaching Support and Innovation (LTSI), UVic Libraries (Libraries), including funding from a BCcampus Open Education Sustainability grant, Student Affairs, the University of Victoria Students' Society (UVSS) and University Systems, OER grants aim to replace existing, expensive textbooks or educational resources with open-access alternatives.

### **OER Grant Criteria**

- Clearly articulation of the project goals and motivation
- Potential impact on UVic students in terms of cost-savings based on the cost of educational materials being replaced, class sizes, as well as possible employment of research assistants (RAs) for the project
- Potential impact on student learning and the student experience in the form of high-quality materials, and open and innovative pedagogy
- Overall alignment with UVic [Strategic Framework](#)
- Long-term plans to reuse the OER in courses in subsequent terms
- Extent to which the OER will be freely and openly shared throughout and beyond UVic (e.g., through BCcampus)
- Feasibility of the plan and timeframe
- Logical alignment of budget with work to be undertaken

**The deadlines for OER grant applications are March 1, 2021 and May 10, 2021.** Connect to the [OER Grant Guidelines and Application Form](#) for more information.

## 4. 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 de-centering unequal colonial knowledge structures, and promoting reconciliation of power relations between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

### 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
- Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken

**The deadlines for SI-I grant applications are March 1, 2021 and May 10, 2021.** Connect to the [SI-I Grant Guidelines and Application Form](#) for more information.

## 5. Course Design/Redesign (CDR) Grants and Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Grants

There is a combined 2021 call for CDR and SoTL grants. There is a single application form, and applicants are invited to indicate which of the two categories their proposal best corresponds to.

CDR grants support the design of a new course, or redesign of an existing course, and its implementation. SoTL grants support empirical research on the impact of teaching practices/pedagogical innovations on student learning outcomes. The CDR and SoTL grants are course-specific. Applying learning principles, grant recipients are expected to develop intended learning outcomes, align learning strategies and assessments with intended learning outcomes, incorporate active and/or participatory learning strategies and abide by principles of [Universal Design for Learning](#) (UDL).

### CDR Grant Criteria

Grant proposals are evaluated on the basis of the relationship between the stated goals (CDR) or the empirical research question (SoTL) and the intended learning outcomes, the potential contribution of the project to the improvement of pedagogy and the potential impact on the learning of UVic students. The following criteria apply to both categories, unless otherwise stated:

- Project goals are clear and articulated in terms of intended learning outcomes
- Research question and methodology are clear and specific (SoTL)
- Purpose states how the project potentially contributes to student learning and the improvement of pedagogy
- Method of assessment of the project's impact on student learning is included (SoTL)
- Application of learning principles and principles of Universal Design for Learning are clear
- Strategies for active learning and student engagement are clear
- Literature review is relevant

- Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken

**The deadline for CDR/SoTL grant applications is April 15, 2021.** Connect to the [CDR and SoTL Grant Guidelines and Application Form](#) for more information.

## 6. 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 the objectives related to internationalization as laid out in the UVic [Strategic Framework](#) (Strategy 6)
- 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
- Budget is justified and logically aligned with the work to be undertaken

**There is no separate call for SI-INT grants for 2021.** Applicants are, instead, invited to indicate if their proposals for CDR/SoTL or ELF grants have an internationalization focus or component.

## 7. Consultation

We encourage prospective applicants for all grants to consult with LTSI for clarification and answers to questions. LTSI organizes a series of workshops to support applications for the above grants. Dates of the workshops for the 2021 applications will be announced on the [LTSI website](#).