Specialized OER Q&A Questions Received

September 13, 2023

Would it also include health sciences?

For the purpose of this project science is: biology, chemistry, physics, etc. Projects from Health Sciences may be considered for inclusion if they are aligned with one of the subject areas: business, science, engineering, or skilled trades. For example, a health sciences OER or ancillary resource relating to biology or chemistry would be applicable.

Please find the link to the Open Library catalogue. If you look to the left side, you will find filters for search purposes. Once you see subjects, you will see the breakdown of what subcategories are under each subject. eCampusOntario Unified Search

Can projects include the payment of external experts?

Yes, the budget allows for project leads to include external experts as part of the project team, or within the general budget.

Working on an OER, the timeline is very short. Cannot fund anything that is already funded. Does that apply to OER funded by the institution?

Projects may have external funding; however, the funding may not be from eCampusOntario and any additional funding must be disclosed in the application.

What are the tax implications for a project lead who is then paying other staff or external hires?

Project leads working with other colleagues as part of a project team will have funds to team members paid by eCampusOntario. Project leads who identify payment for other experts in the other budget area will be responsible for those payments.

Anyone who receives funds from eCampusOntario is responsible for claiming the funds as income as per the Canadian Revenue Agency's requirements. Applicants should consult a tax professional if they have questions on how to claim any funds received from eCampusOntario and any other tax implications.

Are private career colleges able to apply for the grant?

The project lead must be an individual connected with a member institution of eCampusOntario. The team may include individuals from career colleges.

You stated that project can be done in teams. Do you encourage transdisciplinary teams that include academics, businesses, and community organizations? Are transdisciplinary partnerships encouraged, or it makes no difference?

There is no preference to transdisciplinary teams; however, the project provides the opportunity to create teams of this nature.

Is there a rubric for assessment of the project proposals?

The rubric is included below. The first component is complete or incomplete. All other factors will be weighted equally.

Does application meet required criteria: employed in Ontario post-secondary sector, work in the field identified for OER, what else is necessary? (complete/incomplete)
Does the project plan demonstrate alignment with goals of specialized OER project and outline milestones.
Evidence of impact for instructors and learners and inclusion of AODA and EDDI.
Does the budget provide details explaining expenses. Does analysis of costs demonstrate total cost is reasonable for the scope of work.
Does application demonstrate knowledge/experience related to OER and/or online learning.

I am working a project that has received some grant funding, it is due to expire in May 2024. We were hoping to build on the work we are doing now, I am guessing that because we currently have funding we wouldn't be able to apply for this round?

Projects may have external funding; however, the funding may not be from eCampusOntario and any additional funding must be disclosed in the application.

For external SMEs, can we put in a placeholder amount for the application since it can be paid directly?

We will accept placeholders for the project team and if the application is successful, we will work with the project lead to identify the individuals for funds to be paid by eCampusOntario to project team members, such as in the instance of sprints.

How will eCampusOntario determine if OER proposals are approved at individual institutions? If faculty are applying independently, how do you know that the resource will be adopted? At many institutions, OER with high impact are taught by multiple professors.

The application form asks that the applicant identify the impact of the project on students and the institution. It is our expectation applicants are aware of the processes for adopting OER and integrating other resources at their institution.

Can you elaborate any further on the gaps identified in the environmental scan? Or were the broad categories listed as granular as they get?

The areas are a high-level representation of the areas. Exploring the eCampusOntario Open Library catalogue can provide more insight into the specific topics within these areas; however, the listings in the database are not comprehensive. For example, Business & Economy presently includes: Accounting, Business Management, Finance & Trade, and Hospitality; however, we will accept submissions in other

areas of Business not listed such as: Marketing. As these areas are acknowledged to have gaps the headings and more granular topics may not be represented in the catalogue presently.
Check out The Open Library catalogue to see the breakdown in subjects [eCampusOntario Unified Search.](#)

"Projects may not receive funding from additional sources." The project I was thinking of submitting is a huge revamp of an old resource (started in the 1990s and was removed from the web in 2019 because the technology was obsolete). We're talking about some 6,000 images in biology. The original project received funding back then, including from the Ontario government. The current project has already started, with the help of coop students and more recently the Department of Biology provided two research assistants. We don't have a spinoff project per se, we'd be using the funding to apply to a subset of the collection/projects. It sounds like it would not be admissible from what I'm hearing so far, but I just want to confirm before telling the project team that we can't apply. Thanks! Core question: What is meant by funding for this particular condition of the project?

Projects may have external funding; however, the funding may not be from eCampusOntario and any additional funding must be disclosed in the application.

What is the acceptance rate for such applications?

This is the first time funding has been provided through this project, and as such we do not have the previous year's experience to draw on.

How much overall funding is available?

We are not able to announce the amount of funding available.

Can we do honorariums?! Also in terms of some positions like LST there is need for institutional approval, I am just thinking aloud.

Yes, the budget provides for project leads to name individuals, in which instance eCampusOntario will pay funds to the individuals, or to list categories in which instance the project lead will be responsible for paying the individuals or organizations.

If the person applies as an individual, would they be compensated for part of it? Or responsible for dispensing the funds.

If an individual submits a project as an individual and identifies no external expertise required, they should allocate the amount appropriate for the scope of the project. If an individual applying will make use of external experts, but not a project team, as an example a graphic designer, the individual would dispense the funds.

But we cannot list institutional departments/services in the budget because you'll only pay direct to people outside of the institutions?

Services may be listed in the budget category. We would encourage anyone with specific or nuanced questions to consider booking a meeting regarding their budget at: open@ecampusontario.ca.

Should the project necessitate be affiliated with an Institution in Ontario, or it could also be an independent project which aims to develop an OER (e.g, pressbook)

The project lead must be affiliated with a member institution of eCampusOntario.