

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING GRANT FUND

FAQs - APPLYING TO THE EL GRANT FUND

This grant is funded by the University of Winnipeg to support projects and research rooted in student-centered active learning approaches. Projects should strive to enhance student engagement, retention, and success during their degree, as well as post-graduation in their field of study.

GENERAL ELIGIBILITY QUESTIONS

What is the definition of Experiential Learning for the purpose of this application?

For the purpose of this competition, we are defining “experiential learning” as active learning approaches, on and off campus, that help students in for-credit courses to develop hands-on experience and valuable job skills. Priority will be given to curricular-based applications for undergraduate University of Winnipeg courses that include a clearly developed plan for project delivery/completion, as well as clear strategy to evaluate the project’s success.

Who is eligible to submit for funding?

The Experiential Learning Fund is open to all University of Winnipeg faculty members, across all departments. Faculty from Menno Simons College and Canadian Mennonite University are also eligible to submit proposals.

What funds are available for successful applicants?

A total of \$38,000 will be awarded per year, intended as supportive, start-up funds for experiential learning projects. In past competitions, these funds have been divided among 10 to 12 projects, for a typical grant in the \$2,000 to \$4,000 range.

What types of projects will be supported by this grant?

Grants may be awarded to pilot projects, one-time additions to existing courses, or projects that have the potential to be sustained after an initial seed funding period.

NOTE: Priority will be given to **curricular-based projects**, meaning those that

- Directly integrate experiential learning into existing courses, or
- Undertake instructional design (practices and frameworks) for new experiential learning courses.

Proposals can also include projects that advance University-wide supports and program development for curricular or co-curricular experiential learning, for example, those that

- Build experiential learning opportunities with community or industry partners
- Develop practices and frameworks for experiential learning that serve the needs expressed by community partners and/or employers

- Build and offer professional development opportunities for faculty members interested in integrating experiential learning into their courses
- Develop assessment practices for experiential learning

Please refer to the "Examples" section for specific projects that have been previously funded according to these criteria. The ultimate goal of the funding is to support new and existing forms of experiential learning in for-credit courses.

Who is considered a community/industry partner?

Community partners include community-based organizations and non-profits. Industry partners could be any variety of for-profit organizations. Additionally, municipal, provincial, and federal entities can be considered partners.

Can on-campus non-profits be considered community/industry partners?

Yes. Past partnerships have included the Campus Sustainability Office and the Uniter Community Newspaper.

Are lab research projects considered?

Typically, yes.

Can proposed projects be stacked against funding from other sources?

Yes, but other sources of funding, if present, must be disclosed in the application.

APPLICATION-RELATED QUESTIONS

Who is expected to submit the application?

The application should be submitted by a University of Winnipeg faculty member. Co-investigators can include instructors and students, but any funds awarded will be under the name of the faculty member. Both individual and team applications as well as submissions in partnership with community organizations will be considered.

Will there be another call for proposals in upcoming years?

Yes, the EL grant competition runs from January to March every year at the University of Winnipeg. Applicants are typically notified of the competition results during the first week of May.

Will projects that were unsuccessful in previous years be prioritized in subsequent funding rounds?

Though we aim to at least partially fund as many applications as possible, proposals will be adjudicated in the round in which they are submitted. If an applicant re-submits an unsuccessful proposal from a previous round, it will be evaluated anew during the round it is submitted.

Can projects funded in previous rounds be eligible for future funding?

Projects are eligible for only two consecutive years of funding, as these grants are an incentive for projects with the potential to be sustained after an initial seed funding period. As the grant fund aims to support new and innovative EL experiences, applicants with projects funded in the previous round will need to highlight how they have added/modified/scaled their project to clearly demonstrate how it is different.

Can projects span across more than one semester?

Yes; however, all funds are to be spent by March 31 of the following calendar year.

How and when will the funds be transferred to the recipient?

Funds will be put in place through a designated research account. The EL Coordinator will send out the account numbers when all grant recipients have been notified.

How will applications be evaluated?

Please see the attached rubric.

ELIGIBLE USE OF FUNDS**What can funds be spent on?**

- Personnel to aid with the project (should not be UW faculty already on salary)
- Honoraria (for students in internship courses or involved with a project, community partners, guest speakers for workshops/training etc.)
- Contract Services
- Transportation
- Hospitality
- Subsistence and Accommodation
- Supplies and Equipment - *If equipment can be used in the future to further enhance in-course experiences, please highlight that in the application.
- Training and Professional Development

Does there need to be a direct student benefit to be funded?

Preference will be given to projects that allow for the hiring of or disbursement of honoraria, practicum fees etc. to students enrolled in a course.

If my application is approved, is there any flexibility with the budget?

The amount received is final; however, grant extensions for projects unable to be completed by the deadline will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

REPORTING**If my application is successful, what are the reporting and engagement requirements?**

Fund recipients will be asked to

- Provide photos or video documentation of project moments for University of Winnipeg promotional and educational materials
- Provide a one-page final report that describes the project's achieved outcomes and outlines expenditures by April of the following year (or upon completion of the project). If this is the second year of funding, the applicant will be required to report on this specific round. Previous reports will not be accepted.
- Participate in a colloquium to share the project with fellow recipients and the wider UW

community. A short colloquium presentation can be undertaken in lieu of the written report, and student co-presenters are especially welcome!

- Serve on an adjudication committee for the next round of applicants, unless they are re-applying for funding in that round.

EXAMPLES

What are some examples of recently funded projects that align with the criteria?

- Criterion #1: Directly integrate experiential learning into new and existing courses

Department of Applied Computer Science - Funding to acquire and integrate an AI-based robotic arm into existing curriculum. Student use of equipment includes testing programming, algorithm development, control logic, and hands-on simulations. With this platform, students can design and optimize AI models in real-time, gaining practical skills essential for careers in AI and robotics. For credit.

Department of Geography - New, experimental internship course that integrates academic learning in volunteer placements with local sustainability-focused organizations, including local non-for-profits and corporations. For credit.

Department of Psychology - Funding to support the development of a four-year General Degree in Community and Applied Psychology, which would involve one or more for-credit courses requiring a student placement within in the community. For credit, once the course is developed.

- Criterion #2: Undertake instructional design (practices and frameworks) for new and current experiential learning courses

Faculty of Kinesiology - Funding to advance experiential learning for Athletic Therapy students by implementing an online Health Sciences Placement Network activity tracker and practicum database. For credit.

Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences - Funding to support development of a Campus Sustainability course. For credit, once the course is developed.

Department of Theatre and Film - Funding for hands-on application of new sustainability and accessibility tools across the multiple for-credit Theatre and Film courses that involve live stage performances. For credit.

- Criterion #3: Build experiential learning opportunities with community partners

Department of Anthropology - Funding for a Spring field school at Piapot First Nation, introducing students to subsurface technology and GIS mapping techniques used in Residential School searches for unmarked graves. Cultural learning from Cree Elders and visits to former residential school sites are also included. For credit.

Department of Chemistry - Funding for two undergraduate students to research and develop a database of community science research projects for members of the University of Winnipeg community to participate in. Co-curricular.

Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies - Funding for a reconciliation-based program that brings Indigenous and non-Indigenous students together for paid placement work and voluntary learning in Winnipeg's inner-city and North End communities. For credit.

- Criterion #4: Develop practices and frameworks for experiential learning that serve the needs expressed by community or employers

Department of English - Funding for student placements within an Indigenous health-focused practicum/internship course, providing student training to work in a community-specific setting. For credit.

Department of Urban and Inner-City Studies - Funding for an interdisciplinary Summer Institute to grow experiential skill building, knowledge, and relationships for student and researchers interested in community-based projects. The Summer Institute increases research capacity in the community and in Manitoba universities by bringing together students, academics, and community organization members from across the province. Co-curricular.

Department of Criminal Justice - Funding for three Walls to Bridges courses that combine UW students and incarcerated students at Stony Mountain, responding to the need for programming in federal and provincial prisons. In addition to funding for course facilitation and instructor training, two students will also be paid as teaching assistants and tutors.

- Criterion #5: Develop assessment practices for experiential learning

Faculty of Kinesiology - Funding to assess and enhance current assessments in a for-credit experiential course and upgrade those tools to offer a more complete evaluation of learning in the course. Upgraded assessment will be centered on fairness, applicability and real-word integration.

Faculty of Education - Funding for student-teacher placements and practicums in Northern Indigenous communities. Placement evaluators will aim to develop and integrate reflective assessment practices that engage with academic, community-based and land-based learning outcomes.

- Criterion #6: Build and offer professional development opportunities for faculty members interested in integrating experiential learning into their courses

Faculty of Education - Funding for an overnight field experience at the Experimental Lakes Area to provide pre-service teachers with training and application in hands-on environmental-based education, for integration into their teaching practice.

EVALUATION RUBRIC

How will my project proposal be evaluated?

Applications will be evaluated according to the below criteria and weighting:

| Values | Indicators | Score |
|-------------------|--|-------|
| Quality | Consider the criteria listed in eligibility section to determine the following: Is the project meaningful, sustainable, or substantive? Does the proposal include high-quality pedagogy (tied to a course), experience, assessment/evaluation, and reflection? | /25 |
| Impact | Is the experiential or work-integrated benefit to students clear? Will they gain high-impact academic, professional, or personal outcomes? Will they develop skills or experiences important in their academic discipline or region? | /25 |
| Outcomes | Does the project have a clear evaluation metric? Are the student successes regarding applicable skills and job-potential outcomes clear and significant? Can the project be further sustained in some way without ELF funding? | /20 |
| Innovation | Does the project go beyond what is normally standard course preparation or delivery? Does the project apply an existing integrated component in a new student population or in an unusual academic discipline? | /15 |
| Budget | Could the project be workable with fewer funds? Does the project also have other sources of funding? | /15 |