THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Irving K. Barber Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences
Okanagan Campus

2026 Curricular and Teaching Innovation Grant

The Curricular and Teaching Innovation Grants (CTIG), funded by the I.K. Barber Endowment, are designed to encourage and support both individual and collaborative projects that advance innovative teaching practices and improve the learning experience of students in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. The CTIG grants are intended to support projects that demonstrate potential for lasting impact beyond the funding period, promote knowledge sharing, and responsible budget use. The competition is open to all FASS disciplines and encourages creativity across all areas of teaching and learning. The examples below illustrate the types of projects the grant is designed to support; however, proposals beyond these examples are equally welcome and not limited in scope.

- Experiential learning and internship programs that connect students with external partners to address complex, real-world challenges.
- Approaches that cultivate critical thinking, intellectual curiosity, and inquiry-based learning.
- Innovative learning models that invite open-ended exploration and student-led discovery.
- Teaching practices that reflect scholarly rigor, academic freedom, and inclusive excellence.
- Ethical and critical integration of emerging technologies (e.g., generative AI) into pedagogy.
- Assessment strategies that value creativity, complexity, and process over product and outcomes.
- Innovations grounded in evidence that advance the scholarship of teaching and learning.
- Learning approaches that engage communities, land, and place, building relationships with local and Indigenous knowledges.
- Interdisciplinary teaching innovations that foster collaboration across disciplines and beyond UBC Okanagan.

ELIGIBILITY

Individual or team proposals are accepted. Each submission must have a lead applicant and may include one or more co-applicants.

- Lead applicants must be tenured or tenure-track within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS).
    - The lead applicant will be responsible for budget administration if awarded and will serve as the primary point of contact for communication with the Dean's Office.
- Co-applicants may include adjunct faculty, term lecturers, sessional instructors, staff members, and community partners.

GRANT CATEGORIES AND FUNDING AMOUNTS

This year, 2026/27, the Curricular and Teaching Innovation Grant (CTIG) offers three categories designed to accommodate diverse teaching innovations at different scales:

- **CTIG - Exploratory (Small-scale): up to $2,500**
- **CTIG - Transformative (Large-scale): up to $15,000**
- **CTIG - Dissemination: up to $2,500**

The Exploratory and Transformative grants can support a broad spectrum of learner-centered teaching innovations, ranging from exploratory pilot projects to larger-scale initiatives. Both categories prioritize creativity, meaningful impact, and thoughtful evaluation to enhance teaching and learning in the faculty. The Dissemination grant supports faculty in sharing innovative teaching practices developed within the Faculty through conferences, publications, or other scholarly platforms.

Eligible expenses

The award is intended to cover expenses related to the proposed project and may include:

- Acquisition of materials or equipment directly related to the project (e.g., software, essential hardware, teaching materials)
- Salary costs for research Assistants
    - The assistant(s) must devote all their salaried time to the proposed curriculum innovation.
- Course buyout from normally assigned duties
    - Recipients may use a portion of the awarded funds to defray (at the department's going rate) one course release during the duration of the award.
    - The course release must be approved by their Department Head and stipulated in the Head's support letter.
    - Applicants must justify why a buyout is required and why the use of a research assistant would not be sufficient.
- Travel-related expenses and/or fees for training courses.
- Conference attendance expenses to disseminate project outcomes.
    - Note this only applies to the dissemination grant.

For further information or to confirm an expense eligibility, please contact ikbawardsandevents.ubco@ubc.ca.

Ineligible Expenses

Purchase of external consulting or other types of services where the expertise is available within UBC.

FUNDING ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Financial support from the FASS IKB Endowment Fund should be acknowledged in any communication and dissemination pertaining to the funded project.

APPLICATION TERMS

The award is held for a period of two years, starting May 1 of the year awarded. The application package must include:

1. The application form available here.

    - Ensure the proposal is written for a broad academic audience, not limited to your specific discipline(s).
    - Break down your project description into relevant sub-sections.
    - Reflect on what makes your proposal innovative and how it extends beyond the typical responsibilities of a faculty member's teaching assignment.
    - Include a detailed account of how your innovations will directly benefit your academic program(s) and students.
    - Discuss how your project will achieve lasting impact beyond the funding period.
    - Provide a detailed itemized budget, including the breakdown of expenses and a justification for each item.
        - Grants may be awarded at a lower amount than requested if the project is worthy of funding, but specific budget items are not essential to its core objectives.
    - Describe how the proposed initiative will be evaluated and measured.
    - Provide a dissemination plan.
        - Could be within and/or beyond UBCO.
        - Optional for the Exploratory grant.

2. A letter of support from the Department Head must accompany the application.
    - It must detail the management plan for the course release and additional space requirements (if applicable) in addition to outlining any additional support and in-kind contribution provided by the Department.

3. An updated UBC CV for each lead applicant and co-applicant.

This award may not be conferred each year, depending on whether qualifying applications are received and budget availability.

Preference will be given to applicants who have not held an award in the last three years.

Application Deadline: February 6, 2026 - 4 p.m. to ikbawardsandevents.ubco@ubc.ca.

ADJUDICATION

The Dean's designate will chair the Curricular and Teaching Innovation Grant Committee, which will be responsible for making recommendations to the Dean. The Committee membership will comprise one student member and up to four faculty members. Grant recipients will be announced by March 10, 2026.

FAQ

1. If a suitably qualified undergraduate or graduate assistant cannot be found at the Okanagan campus for our project, could we use funds to hire a student from the Vancouver campus?
   A: There is no specific rule in the TOR pertaining to the location (campus) of a graduate/ undergraduate assistant that a faculty member can hire for their proposed curricular innovation.

2. Is it expected that we would apply for a course release as part of the application? Is this optional?
   A: No, a course release is not required in the budget. It should only be included if applicants can demonstrate that other options, such as hiring a research assistant, would not provide adequate support for the project.

3. Does applying for the full amount as an individual affect one's chances?
   A: Total funding requested is not affected by requesting the full allowable amount; it is dependent on how well you justify your budget.

4. Does the applicant's CV need to be in the UBC CV format?
   A: Yes, the CV should follow the UBC format.

5. Can I include a document that has the same headings as the required information?
   A: Yes, you may include a separate document as long as it still adheres to the specified word count.

6. Can the Head's support letter be sent separately from the application package?
   A: We will accept the Head's letter of support separately from the rest of the documents, provided it is received by the stated deadline.

7. Can lecturers apply for this grant?
   A: Term lecturers can be co-applicants on an application. However, lead applicants must be tenured or tenure-track within the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS)

8. Can I apply as part of a group and as an individual?
   A: No, applicants can only apply as either an individual or a group in a single year.