



AIF Information Session

Office of the AVP Teaching and Learning
Teaching Commons

December 7, 2022

Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that many Indigenous Nations have longstanding relationships with the territories upon which York University campuses are located that precede the establishment of York University. York University acknowledges its presence on the traditional territory of many Indigenous Nations. The area known as Tkaronto has been care taken by the Anishinabek Nation, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, and the Huron-Wendat. It is now home to many First Nation, Inuit and Métis communities. We acknowledge the current treaty holders, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. This territory is subject of the Dish with One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement to peaceably share and care for the Great Lakes region.

What is the Academic Innovation Fund?

- The AIF provides opportunities to pilot, develop and test curricular or pedagogical innovations that support **eLearning, Experiential Education (EE), student success and retention strategies** and **internationalization** within the curriculum.
- A focus for the upcoming year will be the embedding of strategies that explicitly advance the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** within the curriculum.

AIF at a glance

\$1.5 M
Awarded annually

23
Projects funded in
2022-23

>\$17 M
For all awards
between 2011 and
2022

348
Unique projects
funded between
2011 and 2022

3 categories of funding

Category I

Supports initiatives of Schools, Departments and/or Faculties to strategically embed one or more of the four institutional priorities within the curriculum - in undergraduate or graduate degrees.

Category II

- Individual grant that supports curricular innovation projects.

Category III

- Individual grant that supports Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) projects.

Category I

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- Pan-university and Faculty-based proposals
- Individual and group proposals submitted by faculty and/or staff

Priority areas

- eLearning, EE, student success and retention, internationalization, SDGs in alignment with above priorities
- Highest priority to projects that can demonstrate they are sustainable, scalable, and affordable
- High priority to Schools, Faculties, or Departments that have documented eLearning and EE plans

Grant Amount:

- Up to \$50K per year
- Funding requests up to \$100K will be considered for initiatives with large-scale impact

Bridget Cauthery

Implementing Generic Skills for Student Success in the School of
Arts, Media, Performance and Design

Category II

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- Course redesign or redesign proposals

II A: Curricular grants for redesigning a course

II B: Involves academic innovation prototyping (i.e., testing out instructional concepts using computing strategies), supported by Community of practice model

Priority areas

- High priority to Schools, Faculties, or Departments that have documented eLearning and EE plans

Grant Amount:

- \$5K per course

Category II A: *Curricular Grants*



FOCI

- eLearning
- Experiential education
- Internationalization



SUPPORT from the Teaching Commons

- BOLD Institute for eLearning projects
- EE course for experiential education projects

Jessica Vorstermans

Health on the Front Lines

Category II B: *A Community of Practice Model for Academic Innovation Prototypes*



INSTRUCTIONAL CONCEPTS

- Curricular
- Pedagogical
- Assessment Oriented



INTENTIONAL TECHNOLOGY

- Current
- Emergent
- Future Oriented



PROTOTYPING PROCESS

- Purposeful Design
- Supported Development
- Formal Testing of Outputs



COMMUNITY MODEL

- CoP Theory
- Targeted 1-on-1 Support
- Cohesion & Customization

Timelines + Expectations



MAY 2023

- Community Kick-Off
- Individual Consults
- Instructional Goal Setting

SUMMER 2023

- BOLD course through TC
- Design & Development
- Experience Sharing

FALL 2023 – WINTER 2024

- Student Onboarding Support
- Just-in-Time Instructor Support
- Formal Course Research



APRIL 2024

- Process Reflections
- Course Delivery Insights
- Discuss Next Steps

Recommendations / Suggestions



COURSE DESCRIPTION: THE WHY (Purpose) & THE WHO (Needs)



COURSE REDESIGN: THE WHAT (Instructional & Technological)



SCALABILITY: THE WHEN & WHERE (Disruptions of Time & Space)



SUSTAINABILITY: THE SDGs & THE SUPPORT NETWORK (Dept/Faculty)

Category III: Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

What kinds of projects are eligible?

- Research projects that investigate an aspect of teaching and learning grounded in the instructor's teaching
- Open to full-time and part-time faculty
- Dissemination of research project outcomes

Priority areas

- Project proposing a systematic study of approaches, strategies, and tools aiming to improve student learning

Grant Amount:

Up to \$5K per research project



SUPPORT from the Teaching Commons

- EduCATE course (guiding the research process including methodology, study design, and ethics)

What is SoTL?

- It is “the process of exploring, researching, developing, refining, reflecting upon, and communicating better ways and means of producing, promoting, and enhancing scholarly learning and teaching” (Healy et al. 2013: 24).
- ‘Going public’ is the key factor that distinguishes SoTL from scholarly teaching (Vajoczki et al. 2011). Being systematic in how to go about observing learning, gathering evidence of it and disseminating findings in appropriate venues is another important characteristic of SoTL research.

Andrew McEachern

Changing the culture of fear in a first year required mathematics
class



Application guidelines & forms

<https://www.yorku.ca/aifprojects/apply-for-the-academic-innovation-fund-aif/>

- **Application process and assessment criteria are included.**
- Please follow criteria closely! The adjudication committee uses a rubric aligned to the criteria to assess each application.

Submission deadlines

- Applicants are required to submit their application to the Office of the Dean for their Faculty/School for review, approval, and ranking.
- Each Faculty/School has their own internal deadline.
- February 17, 2023 is the final deadline for submission of all applications by the Offices of the Dean to the Office of AVP Teaching and Learning.



Q&A

Have More Questions? Seeking Support?

For general questions about AIF, contact avptl@yorku.ca

For support with your application:

- Reach out to the Teaching Commons:
 - teaching@yorku.ca
 - Drop-in office hours, [Virtual Drop In Zoom Link \(M-F 10-11\)](#)
- Come to the peer support January 5 session (3-4:30pm)
 - Please fill out this survey to help us plan the follow-up session