

Indigenous Curriculum Grant Guidelines

Version: 2025-10-15

The Office of Indigenous Engagement, with support from the Vice-Provost (Teaching and Learning) and the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning, will be providing funding to help academic programs advance Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous Perspectives in their curriculum. This funding is intended for those working on Indigenous Curriculum through innovative land-based learning and inclusion of Traditional Knowledge and Knowledge Keepers. These curriculum projects will help advance Indigenous Engagement and create spaces for Indigenous resurgence in academic curriculum.

This grant recognizes that Indigenous pedagogies view land as a living being that teaches us a way to be in the world through relational and reciprocal relationships with all our relatives. Traditional Knowledge of the land is often held by Traditional Knowledge Keepers. The curriculum grants are intended to provide up to \$10,000 to support initiatives that will advance Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous Perspectives in the curriculum, including but not limited to pilot initiatives, course-based initiatives, land-based learning, Elder/Traditional Knowledge Keeper engagement in teaching and learning, and new curriculum development within an academic program.

The grant is designed to cover activities such as resource development, community engagement/consultation, respectful and meaningful engagement of Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers, and costs associated with land-based learning.

An average of 5 curriculum grants in the amount of \$10,000 will be provided each year for up to 5 years. In the spirit of reciprocity, academic units are asked to identify and provide in-kind resources to support these proposed initiatives.

All grant recipients will attend the pipe ceremony to share their intentions for the grant in a parallel oral process, “ensuring policies, practices and procedures are supportive and respectful of Indigenous ways of doing” (ii'taa'poh'to'p, p.5).

Eligibility

- Applicants must be a UCalgary Academic Staff member - any employee of the University holding an academic appointment (continuing, limited term, or contingent term)
- Project Holders must be Academic Staff and continuously employed by UCalgary for the duration of the proposed grant.
- Grant applications must be submitted with a letter of support from the Dean, Associate Dean, or Department Head.
- Individual and collaborative instructor submissions are welcome, and transdisciplinary initiatives are encouraged.

Criteria

Priority for funding will be given to projects that meet some or all the following criteria:

- Initiatives are designed to have direct impact on student learning experiences and to affirm and recognize Indigenous histories, current realities, cultures, languages, knowledge systems, and/or pedagogies.
- Initiatives include innovative Indigenization of teaching and learning places and spaces, on and off the UCalgary campus (including site visits, land-based learning and/or community partnerships).
- Initiatives are aligned with the recommendations and principles of *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, UCalgary's Indigenous Strategy.
- Initiatives include meaningful, reciprocal, and respectful engagement with Indigenous knowledges, Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers, scholars and/or Indigenous communities.
- Proposal includes the dedication of in-kind funds and resources to support the proposed initiatives and how successful initiatives could be sustainability supported moving forward.

Proposal

Support materials related to the oral process and/or traditions will also be accepted as part of the submission, as appropriate.

To request funding, please send a document (1-2 pages) that includes the following:

- **FUNDING & DURATION** - Total funds requested (up to \$10,000), the duration of the project (fund can be spent over one or two years), an itemized summary of how funds will be used.
- **DESCRIPTION** - A description of the initiative (based on the above-noted criteria), including the following:
 - How it will impact student learning and affirm, relate to and/or recognize Indigenous histories, current realities, cultures, languages, knowledge systems, and/or pedagogies.
 - How the proposal aligns with innovative Indigenization of teaching and learning places and spaces, on and off the UCalgary campus (including site visits, land-based learning and/or community partnerships).

- How it aligns with the recommendations and principles of *ii' taa'poh'to'p*, UCalgary's Indigenous Strategy.
- How it will meaningfully engage Indigenous knowledges, Elders/Traditional Knowledge Keepers, scholars and/or Indigenous communities – Please identify current relationships established with Traditional Knowledge Keepers/Elders and Indigenous organizations/communities for land-based learning.
- An overview of in-kind funding and/or resources that will support the initiative, including ongoing sustainability of successful initiatives beyond the support of this grant.
- LETTER OF SUPPORT – an attached letter of support from the applicant's Dean, Associate Dean, or Department Head.

Grant allocation

- Successful projects will receive the full amount of the grant requested (up to 10K) and can be spent over one or two years (please indicate in the budget projection). One-year projects can request an extension via letter with an attached progress report.

Reporting

- Progress and/or Final reports are due by April 30th annually.
- Oral and/or written reports will be submitted to the Office of Indigenous Engagement and the Taylor Institute for Teaching and Learning.
- Final and or Annual progress reports should include a budget report, a summary of activity, and an outline of how the project will be sustained through support from academic units.

Contact information and Support

The primary point of contact for this initiative is:

Norma Jeremick'ca Gresl, M.A.
 Manager, Community Outreach & Program Development
 Office of the Provost and Vice President | Indigenous Engagement
 University of Calgary
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 Calgary, AB, T2N 1N4, Canada
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Relevant Information

Those interested in preparing a proposal are encouraged to refer to the recently developed Indigenous Principles for Curriculum Development:

- Ethical Space of Engagement in Curriculum Development Processes
<https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/resources/indigenous-guiding-principles-for-curriculum-development-projects>
- Indigenous Guiding Principles for Curriculum Development Workshop Series
<https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/workshop-series/indigenous-principles-curriculum-development>

Academic staff are also encouraged to explore how the University of Calgary Teaching and Learning Grants program can further support expanding on these initiatives. Please visit the following site for more information: <https://taylorinstitute.ucalgary.ca/programs-and-courses/programs/teaching-and-learning-research/grants-program>

Proposal Submission

Please submit your proposal by **January 30, 2026**, to Norma Jeremick'ca Gresl at n.jeremickcagresl@ucalgary.ca If you have questions, please reach out to Norma Jeremick'ca Gresl.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to advancing Indigenous Engagement and Indigenous Perspectives across academic programs.