

Introduction

BCcampus works to connect the expertise, programs, and resources of all BC post-secondary institutions to promote innovation under a collaborative service delivery framework. To find out more about BCcampus and its 2010-2012 strategic plan visit <http://www.bccampus.ca>.

Since 2003 BCcampus has provided an annual Online Program Development Fund to support BC public post secondary partnerships in developing for-credit online learning resources that give students access to more programs leading to complete degrees, diplomas and certificates.

All documents related to the 2010 OPDF as well as data and summaries of the OPDF to date including previous calls for proposals, summary reports on annual outcomes, data sheets showing institution OPDF awards as lead or partner, and analysis of OPDF results overall can be found on the BCcampus OPDF workspace wiki at: <http://opdf.pbworks.com/w/page/OPDF-Home-Page#>.

BCcampus is pleased to announce with this call for proposals, a \$750,000 2010 Online Program Development Fund (OPDF). BCcampus invites BC public post secondary institutions to submit proposals. Due date for proposals is Tuesday December 14, 2010.

Strategic Goals of OPDF

There are three strategic goals associated with the Online Program Development Fund.

1. Partnerships

The OPDF is primarily focused on supporting multi-institutional partnerships for development of online learning resources that fulfill a mutual academic need. Partnering should involve pooling of expertise and developing online resources that all partner institutions subsequently use. Proposals from a single institution for development of online learning resources that are used solely by that institution can be submitted but will not be scored as highly as those involving partnerships.

2. Credentials

A goal of the BCcampus OPDF is to increase credential opportunities available to students throughout the province. OPDF proposals should focus on developing resources that are for credit and contribute to a credential. Credentials are developed through the BCcampus OPDF in four ways:

- 1.1. A single round of funding for development of all the courses required for a complete credential.
- 1.2. A complete credential is built out gradually through multiple rounds of funding.
- 1.3. The OPDF provides funding needed for development of the last few courses required to make the complete credential online.
- 1.4. The OPDF creates a number of online courses used across multiple credentials or serving as building blocks for creating credentials.

A summary of credentials the OPDF has contributed to the development of so far can be found at <http://opdf.pbworks.com/OPDF-Outcomes-Analysis>. OPDF proposals should define what credential OPDF funded development contributes to.

3. Sharing and Reuse

All resources developed through the OPDF are licensed for free reuse, revision, remix, and redistribution. Resources licensed this way are known around the world as "Open Educational Resources (OER)". Since its inception in 2003 the OPDF has led to the development of 317 courses, 10 workshops, 18 web sites/tools and 338 course components (learning objects, labs, textbooks, manuals, videos) developed across almost all academic fields of study.

When OPDF resources are fully developed they are put in the BCcampus Shareable Online Learning Resources (SOL*R) repository <http://solr.bccampus.ca> where they become available for review and download. The 2010 OPDF is focused on seeing more reuse of these resources across BC public post secondary. Proposals should show how new online learning resources developed through 2010 OPDF funding will be integrated with previously funded OPDF resources, or other OER from around the world, to construct credentials. The OPDF is seeking to minimize duplication and maximize sharing and reuse.

2010 OPDF Targets

On September 24, 2010 the Premier and Ministry of Advanced Education and Labour Market Development proclaimed the 2010-11 school year as the Year of Science. Find out more about the Year of Science from the 2010 OPDF FAQ and the Year of Science web site <http://www.yearofsciencebc.ca>.

In support of this initiative the 2010 OPDF call for proposals is targeting a portion of the available funding at development of online science curricula.

Estimated funding allocation for the 2010 OPDF is:

1. \$250K for development of science courses and course components.
2. \$500K for development of courses and course components in academic domains other than science.

(Actual amount awarded depends on number and quality of proposals received.)

The 2010 OPDF is targeted at supporting two types of online learning development.

1. Courses
Proposals are invited for development of credit-based online courses.
2. Course Components
Proposals are invited for development of for-credit course components such as learning objects, labs, textbooks, manuals, and videos.

Criteria

Proposals for development of courses or course components should address the following criteria:

- Preference is given to proposals for **fully online courses and course components** in an area of high student demand and/or provincial, regional, or local labour market need. Proposals should define the anticipated number of students served through this development. The larger the number of students, the higher the priority.
- Preference will be given to proposals that **increase access** to BC's public higher education **through multi-institution enrollment and provision of credit**. Proposals should indicate how credit is supported by transfer and articulation agreements.
- Preference will be given to proposals involving **partnerships** between multiple public post secondary institutions. Partner institutions must each state how they will participate in the development and use of the resources. Partnerships can also involve collaborations with other organizations such as BC e-learning companies, not-for-profits, professional associations, health authorities, school districts, and out-of-province institutions.
- Preference will be given to proposals for development of **for-credit online courses and course components** that **build out complete online programs leading to a credential**. These can be new programs or programs already started but requiring additional courses to be completed.
- Preference will be given to proposals that **integrate new** online learning resources **with previously funded OPDF resources, or other OER from around the world**, to construct credentials.
- Preference will be given to proposals that incorporate instructional design into the development process and build in **use of effective and engaging online teaching and learning pedagogies**. Proposals should describe what the pedagogical approach is.
- Preference will be given to proposals that are **cost effective**. In addition to reusing and remixing existing resources proposals should include in-kind funding and provide an itemized breakdown of how OPDF funding will be allocated for development activities.

Application Process

Accompanying this call for proposals is an OPDF application form. While the application form defines the basic proposal information required, those wishing to submit more detail can attach appendices as required. Successful evaluation is facilitated by proposals that are well written and specifically address the criteria.

An FAQ also accompanies this 2010 OPDF call for proposals. All applicants should review the FAQ in advance of generating a proposal. The FAQ answers the most frequently asked questions about the OPDF and provides further information and guidelines about generating a proposal and post award requirements.

Proposals must be coordinated through, approved, and submitted via e-mail by the head of institutional academic affairs. The application form should be completed and e-mailed to: pstacey@bccampus.ca.

Proposals with multiple institutional partners must designate a lead institution for the project and submit the proposal through the lead. Institutional partners should include a letter of support identifying names and roles of partner participants, along with how the developed resource will be used by each partner, as part of the proposal.

The deadline for submission of proposals is Tuesday December 14, 2010.

Review and Selection Process

Evaluation, selection and award are done by independent professional peer review based on the criteria expressed in the call for proposals. The evaluation committee will review and evaluate the proposals in January 2011. Recommendations for award made by the evaluation committee are submitted to ALMD for approval before the award is made.

Announcement of awards is targeted for end of January 2011.

Communication and media announcements around OPDF grant awards must be coordinated with BCcampus and the Ministry of Advanced Education.

Post Award

BCcampus organizes and hosts in Vancouver a one day OPDF Orientation and Kickoff Event for all successful applicants. This event brings together at least one representative from each successful proposal for a full day of activities designed to define roles, responsibilities, and processes associated with development. This includes:

- a review of the contract
- requirements for a project plan
- invoicing/payment processes
- sharing and reuse license options
- use of the Shareable Online Learning Resources repository
- completion steps, and
- final report

Mainland participants must cover their own costs associated with attending this event. Other participants can expense travel and accommodation to BCcampus.