

Experiential Learning Fund 2014-15 Final Report

Prepared by Rorie Mcleod Arnould, Chair of the Experiential Learning Fund Selection Committee

Introduction

The Experiential Learning Fund is available to students and faculty at the University of Winnipeg to engage in for-credit experiential learning initiatives. Funding is generously supplied by the President's Office. Proposals typically focus on:

- Connecting students with experiential learning opportunities;
- Integrating experiential learning into existing courses;
- Developing and delivering new experiential learning courses;
- Developing assessment practices for experiential learning;
- Addressing administrative or other barriers to advancing experiential learning at the University of Winnipeg;
- Building long-term, sustainable experiential learning partnerships with local, national, and international entities;
- Developing practices and frameworks for experiential learning that benefit and service the needs expressed by community partners;
- Supporting experiential learning research.

The Fund Selection Committee meets annually to review submissions and support projects that provide a broad variety of opportunities to the campus community.

Process

The selection process was organized by the Experiential Learning Network (ELN), which drafted the attached application form (Appendix A).

A call for submissions was made with an application deadline of February 13, 2015. The committee did receive and consider a request that was submitted on February 14, while acknowledging the importance of meeting deadlines in an attempt to ensure fairness and transparency for all applicants.

Members of the selection committee were:

Student Representative and Chair: Rorie Mcleod Arnould

Dean/Associate Dean: Danny Blair

Representative of the Vice-President Academic: Naomi Hamer

ELN Representatives: Anna Weir & Laurel Cassels

Guidelines for the fund outline that three members of the ELN should participate in the committee, however unforeseen circumstances prevented the third appointee from attending.

Selection Committee members were emailed all the applications, and met in person on February 23 to finalize the funding recipients. Once consensus was reached, Alana Lajoie-O'Mally, member of the Experiential Learning Initiatives Network, notified all applicants to inform them of the outcome in PDF letters sent via email.

The Chair of ELN provided the President's Office with the names of the successful applicants along with the dollar amount awarded to each and requested that Financial Services set up

designated accounts for faculty recipients and ensured that the appropriate amount of money was transferred into the accounts. Once the accounts were set up, designated account numbers were sent to the successful applicants.

Summary of Applications

1. Political Ethnography Project

Applicant: Student, Indigenous Studies
Funding Requested: \$2,600
Funding Received: \$0

2. Climate Change Response Project

Applicant: Faculty Member, Biology
Funding Requested: \$10,432
Funding Received: \$0

3. Indigenous Student Sharing Circle

Applicant: Instructor, Urban and Inner City Studies
Funding Requested: \$4,200
Funding Received: \$0

4. Enhancing Cultural Competency Through Experiential Learning

Applicant: Program Director, Masters in Development Practice
Funding Requested: \$3,746
Funding Received: \$2,300

5. Creating Valuable Learning Experiences for Low-Income and Street Children in Manila, Philippines

Applicant: Faculty Member, Faculty of Education
Funding Requested: \$3,000
Funding Received: \$2,500

6. "Green" Chemistry Lab Experiments

Applicant: Faculty Member, Chemistry
Funding Requested: \$3,400
Funding Received: \$0

7. Building A Ceremonial Drum

Applicant: Faculty Member, Faculty of Education
Funding Requested: \$700
Funding Received: \$700

8. Environmental Perception and Sustainability

Applicant: Faculty Member, Geography
Funding Requested: \$8,000
Funding Received: \$0

9. Methods in Biochemistry Program Development

Applicant: Faculty Member, Chemistry
Funding Requested: \$5,724
Funding Received: \$0

10. Pilot Course: Indigenous Spirituality and Contemporary Art

Applicant: Faculty Member, Religion and Culture
Funding Requested: \$3,826
Funding Received: \$3000

11. Kyoto Field School

Applicant: Faculty Member, Religion and Culture
Funding Requested: \$5,341
Funding Received: \$2500

12. City Studio Vancouver: the Art of Cities

Applicant: Faculty Member, Geography
Funding Requested: \$6,170
Funding Received: \$3000

13. International Field Course

Applicant: Faculty Member, History
Funding Requested: \$30,000
Funding Received: \$0

14. Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program

Applicant: Faculty Member, Urban and Inner City Studies
Funding Requested: \$8,274
Funding Received: \$4500

15. Research Assistance- The Making of Peace and War

Applicant: Faculty Member, English
Funding Requested: \$3,000
Funding Received: \$2,000

16. Indigenous Ceremonies and Healing

Applicant: Faculty Member, Religion and Culture
Funding Requested: \$3,856
Funding Received: \$2,500

17. International Field Course

Applicant: Faculty Member, Classics
Funding Requested: \$4,700
Funding Received: \$0

18. Applying Ecological Principles to Reduce Weed Infestations of Community Gardens

Applicant: Faculty Member, Biology
Funding Requested: \$2,500
Funding Received: \$1,500

19. Winnipeg Art Gallery Field Trip

Applicant: Student, Classics
Funding Requested: \$1395
Funding Received: \$0

20. Architecture and Urban Renewal in Winnipeg (1900-present)

Applicant: Faculty Member, History
Funding Requested: \$4,400
Funding Received: \$2,500

21. Summer Field School in Ethnobotany

Applicant: Faculty Member, Indigenous Studies
Funding Requested: \$3,550
Funding Received: \$3,000

22. Ecology Field Course

Applicant: Faculty Member, Biology
Funding Requested: \$12,000
Funding Received: \$0

Future Considerations

The Fund Selection Committee provided the following suggestions:

1. To facilitate easier reading by Selection Committee members, all applications and supporting documents should be submitted as PDFs.
2. Guidelines should be put in place for the Selection Committee to aid in the prioritization of either existing projects or new initiatives, in order to enable consistency year to year, and the funding of optional course-based student opportunities.
3. Continued refinement of the budgetary breakdown application form of each project would allow for greater understanding of the relative needs of funding between different proposals.
4. We should refine our application materials and messaging to include clarification that proposals should go beyond simply giving a student the opportunity to do research or curriculum development with a professor, or on their behalf.

APPENDIX A

APPLICATION FOR A GRANT FROM THE EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

Applications are now being accepted for the 2015 Experiential Learning Fund. Applications should be submitted no later than Friday, February 13th, 2015. The Selection Committee will provide confirmation of funding by Friday, February 27th, 2015. All funds must be spent by December 31, 2015. A total of \$30,000 will be distributed to projects that advance **for-credit** experiential learning at The University of Winnipeg. Applications should be sent to ELN@uwinnipeg.ca, subject line "EL Fund Application."

Experiential learning is an umbrella term often used to describe service learning, practicum experiences, co-op placements internships, fieldwork, field trips, applied projects, and activities related to prior learning assessment.

The selection committee may fund a combination of pilot projects, one-time additions to existing courses, or projects that have the potential to be sustained after an initial seed funding period.

Eligibility

Applications may be accepted from students, staff and faculty members of The University of Winnipeg. We also encourage application teams and partnerships with community groups.

Funding Criteria

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. Proposals can include projects that advance University-wide mechanisms/supports for experiential learning or projects that support specific experiential-learning opportunities for students. Any costs directly related to such projects may be eligible for funding. Projects may include, but are not limited to, those that:

- Connect students with experiential learning opportunities;
- Integrate experiential-learning into existing courses;
- Develop & deliver new experiential learning courses;
- Develop assessment practices for experiential learning;
- Address administrative or other barriers to advancing experiential learning at The University of Winnipeg;
- Build long-term, sustainable experiential learning partnerships with local, national and international entities;
- Develop practices and frameworks for experiential learning that benefit and serve the needs expressed by community partners;
- Support experiential learning research.

Application Process

Applicants are asked to complete a project proposal by filling out the application form below. The Selection Committee for this fund shall include 1 designate appointed by the Vice-President Academic, 1 Dean, 4 members of ELN (Experiential Learning Network), at least 1 of whom is a student member.

Reporting & Other Requirements

Fund recipients:

- Will be required to provide a brief (1-2 page) summary of the project as well as a summary of actual expenses and associated documentation by Friday, January 29th 2016;
- May be asked to provide a workshop on campus about their project;

- Will be asked to send photos and videos of project(s) to ELN@uwinnipeg.ca for relevant educational and promotional materials;
- Will be encouraged to actively participate in the Experiential Learning Network's planning and programming activities to help grow a community of practice around Experiential Learning at UWinnipeg.

Previous Project Examples

Faculty of Kinesiology. Faculty members.

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 Psychology. Faculty member.

Funding to support the development of a 4-year General Degree in Community and Applied Psychology, which would involve one or more courses that require students to work in the community. These funds would be used to hire a senior student to develop a compendium of potential work placements.

Department of Kinesiology and Applied Health. Faculty member.

Funding to support the additional of an experiential learning element (canoeing and kayaking at Fort Whyte) to a traditional classroom course (Outdoor Education and Recreation). For credit.

Department of Environmental Studies and Sciences. Faculty member.

Funding to support development of a course through the Department of Environmental Studies and Science entitled *Campus Sustainability*. For credit once course is developed

Department of English. Faculty member.

Funding to support a project taken on as part of a course involving designing and creating an innovative space in a portion of the university's library. For credit.

Department of Urban and Inner City Studies. Faculty member & community member.

Funding to support the development and implementation of the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program at the University of Winnipeg. For credit.

Various Departments.

Field school support. Funds have been used to pay for additional site visits beyond those originally planned and a range of other related activities.

APPLICATION FORM: EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING FUND

PROJECT SUMMARY

- 1) Is this proposal for (a) a pilot project, (b) a one-time additions to an existing class, or (c) for project/program development?
- 2) In 2-3 sentences, please describe your project.
- 3) What are the overall objectives of your project?
- 4) How does your project advance for-credit experiential learning at The University of Winnipeg?

PROJECT IMPACT

- a) What do you expect to be the impact of your project on the University?
- b) What is the potential for the long-term continuation from your project?
- c) How will the project's results be reported and evaluated?

PROJECT BUDGET

READ CAREFULLY: Applications may apply for up to the full fund amount of \$30,000; however, applicants should be aware that to date the average grants awarded were \$2,727 and \$833 in 2013/2014 and 2012/2013 respectively. **The selection committee requires a clear and honest assessment of the impact of no or partial funding on your project.**

While your project can extend beyond the funding period, all monies provided through this fund must be expended by December 31, 2015. Requests for carry-over of funds beyond December 31st, 2015 must be addressed in the proposal itself.

- a) Please complete the *Experiential Learning Fund Budget Template* provided and attach it to your application.
- b) Is the project expected to continue beyond the grant period, and if so, is there any evidence that it might be self-sustaining in the future?
- c) What will be the impact on your project if you are not awarded these funds? How will your project change?
- d) What will be the impact of your project if you receive partial funding? Can the project be 'scaled up' or 'scaled down' depending on funds?