



Community-Engaged Learning (CEL) Course Fund

The Centre for Community Partnerships (CCP) offers small grants of up to \$500 per course to support instructors teaching community-engaged learning (CEL) courses at the University of Toronto. This funding can be used for CEL courses to 1) recognize community partner engagement, 2) address barriers to student participation, and 3) support innovation in CEL.

Eligibility

Instructors whose courses meet the definition of CEL below are eligible to apply. At the University of Toronto, a course is considered CEL if it meets the following four criteria:

- It takes place in partnership with community, and/or grassroots, nonprofit, or public organizations, and
- It responds to community-defined priorities, and
- It is reciprocal so that both community partners and students benefit from the engagement, and
- It asks students to undertake reflection that connects their community engagement to the learning outcomes of the initiative

Funding can be used for:

Recognizing community partner engagement*

**Applications to support under-resourced grassroots or volunteer-run community organizations will be prioritized.*

- Providing honoraria or a meal for community partners who consult on CEL course development
- Recognizing contributions provided by Indigenous Traditional Teachers in the development or delivery of a CEL course
- Providing honoraria for guest speakers from community organizations that are hosting CEL students
- Hosting a community partner meal as part of a CEL course
- Providing honoraria for community partner attendance at events that are part of a CEL course

Addressing barriers to student participation

- Reimbursing student transit, entrance fees or other costs for CEL-related field trips (e.g., tour of a community partner's space)
- Covering costs associated with student projects (e.g., printing costs)
- Costs for any training, testing or documentation required by community partners for student participation in placement activities (eg. immunization record, TB test, Vulnerable Sector Police Check, food handling)

Developing innovations in CEL courses

- Developing resources for a course (e.g., creating an online module or other learning asset)
- Supporting faculty, students or community partners who attend or present at conferences related to CEL
- Covering costs associated with TA and/or RA support hours
- Hosting a talk or conference related to CEL

Please note: The Fund does *not* support one-off workshops or guest presentations in courses that do not meet the criteria of CEL, nor one-off workshops or guest presentations by presenters or facilitators who are not from CEL partner organizations in the CEL course.

Application Process & Award Dissemination

The 2025-2026 CEL Course Fund **opens on Friday, August 15, 2025** and must be for an initiative that takes place **before April 30, 2026**. CEL course instructors may apply for funding up to a **maximum of \$500 per CEL course**. The fund is first-come, first-served.

Application deadlines:

Wednesday, October 8, 2025 (for Fall term and full-year courses)

Friday, January 30, 2025 (for Winter term courses)

If a grant is awarded, funds will be transferred to your department. You will then liaise with your department's business officer regarding expense reimbursements and payments to community partners.

To apply please visit: uoft.me/CCPCourseFundApplication

Questions? Please email Heather Hermant, Lead Coordinator, Academic Initiatives heather.hermant@utoronto.ca.

Selected examples of how past recipients have used their CEL Course Fund grants
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Honoraria for community partners to speak on a panel on the first day of a CEL class• Honoraria for a meeting with community partners to collectively share feedback with the instructor for future course development• Childcare expenses to enable community partner participants to join an undergraduate co-learning course with CEL students• Catering expenses for an end-of-course student poster exhibition bringing together community partners, students who conducted research with them, and faculty who served as mentors• Catering expenses and an honorarium to support a community partner's exhibition event, which brought together the organization's community and students in the course• Stipend for a graduate student assistant to develop processes and tools for CEL students in a large undergraduate science course, in which students worked collaboratively on projects with community partners• Subsidizing transportation costs for students travelling to community organizations for placement activities• Software purchase for the development of animated teaching tools on topics relevant to CEL in a health sciences course• Covering the conference fee for a graduate student TA to attend a CEL conference with the CEL course instructor• Subsidizing the cost of students' Vulnerable Sector Police Record Checks