Virtual Learning Strategy (Second Round) Frequently Asked Questions

Administration

1. **Will proposal evaluators have expertise with the wide variety of top up envelopes?**
   The evaluators assigned to the EOI will consider the applicability and budgeting of the top-ups in the standard review of the Digital Content EOIs. Scoring of the top-ups will be incorporated into the "Alignment between project justification, objectives, & funding goals" and "Aligning budget to objectives" sections of the evaluation. Please refer to the rubric for more details.

2. **How can I apply to evaluate proposals?**
   You can apply to be an evaluator through this link:
   https://ecampus.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_57rKG61XvDT539Q

3. **Will the reporting process and frequency be similar to the first round of VLS?**
   The reporting frequency and requirements will be communicated once the successful projects are finalized. The process will be similar to the first round.

Building on First Round of VLS

1. **What is the difference between 'virtual educational resource' used this round vs 'open educational resource' used in VLS 1.0?**
   We opted to use a more inclusive term "Virtual Education Resource" in this round of funding to account for projects that are creating resources that will only be available for use and reuse across Ontario. Open Educational Resources in the most traditional sense require a Global Open License to be applied, which is not a requirement of this option. Project teams are encouraged to consider opening their work up for use and reuse around the world, but it is not required as part of this round of funding.

2. **If the first round of VLS projects is still under development, then do we base our continuation project on the project description only?**
   Yes! We've created the database to help you get a sense of all the fantastic work that was done as part of the first round of funding. If you'd like to learn more about a specific project from the first round of funding, please reach out to vls@ecampusontario.ca with you contact

information and the title(s) of the project(s) you are interested in. We will facilitate the connection, but it will be the responsibility of the project lead to reach out to you.

3. **How have projects from the first round of funding that faced challenges and decided not to proceed been flagged in the database?**
The database is a summary of projects that are ongoing as part of the first round of funding. If a project had challenges and/or decided to terminate early, they have been removed from the database.

4. **Can applications that were unsuccessful or not submitted during the first round of funding be resubmitted for this round?**
Yes! Please use the VLS 1.0 database to confirm your project is not a duplication of work that was already completed as part of the first round of funding. We also encourage you to review and align your submission to meet the criteria outlined in the evaluation rubric and submission template for the second round of funding to bolster your chances of success.

5. **Can an application be submitted to translate a project from the first round of funding? If so, how much is funding is allowed for that?**
Yes, you may translate content from the first round of funding. Costs should be justified within the application. The intent of the top-up is to provide additional funding support for content that needs to be translated.

EOI Clarification

1. **Why is collaboration (particularly with other institutions) not emphasized as much as it was in the first round of VLS?**
Collaboration is a principle of the VLS, and we have embedded collaboration into the universal rubric and weighted it at 20% of the total score. We are also incentivizing collaborations with learners and employers through the learner engagement and employer partnership top-ups.

2. **Can you collaborate with Institutions/partners outside of Ontario?**
We encourage collaborations within Ontario, but also understand that partnerships beyond the Ontario publicly-assisted postsecondary sector may be needed to support the work you will be doing. The intention is for funds to stay in Ontario, but project teams will have the opportunity to identify collaborations or partnerships with postsecondary institutions outside of Ontario, employers/industry partners, community organizations, etc. in the virtual submission form.

3. **When will the further information related to Digital Education and Transformation be made available?**
These are programs that will be delivered by eCampusOntario. More information will be made available to the sector by early-2022.

4. **Can an application propose a new course project and top that up with additional funds (top-ups)?**
Yes! Top-up funding is only available for the Digital Content Tranche in the second round of funding. You can apply up to 2 top-ups to your project. Please select top-ups that seem most relevant to your work. More details about top-up funding are available in the EOIs.

5. **If Digital Capacity support was received in the first round of funding, can an institution reapply for the current round, as well?**
Yes! Please review and align your submission to the second round of funding to meet the criteria outlined in the evaluation rubric and submission template.

6. **Can Targeted Supports be used to provide faculty relief (i.e., hire a sessional to cover a course) so they can focus on development of online learning materials? Can the funds pay for salaries or stipends for contract faculty?**
The EOI stats that an eligible expense may include "Subject matter expertise (including faculty release time)." We encourage you to review the Eligible Expenses section of the EOI carefully before submitting your EOI, and ensure you are able to provide clear documentation of how faculty relief or paying contract faculty is directly enabling digital capacity support.

7. **Can a resource funded under Targeted Supports (e.g., an Instructional Designer) work on existing non-VLS courses to improve them?**
Yes, the purpose of this tranche of funding is to provide institutions with low virtual learning capacity with support to develop virtual learning materials, and these materials are not limited to VLS-funded materials.

8. **Can unspent funds from the first round of VLS be applied to projects that are submitting an application to continue their project in the current round?**
The funds between the first round and the second round are separate. All unspent funds from the first round must be returned to eCampusOntario and cannot be carried over.

9. **What do XR and AR stand for?**
Extended Reality (XR) is an umbrella term encapsulating Augmented Reality (AR), Virtual Reality (VR), Mixed Reality (MR), and everything in between. For more information about XR, please check out our Hybrid Futures Foresight Report (page 4):
https://www.ecampusontario.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/The-Hybrid-Futures-Tagged-

Licensing

1. **What is the Ontario Commons License, and can I apply a Creative Commons License to my project?**
   At a minimum, all products developed with VLS funding are required to be shared within Ontario, among all post-secondary institutions, using the Ontario Commons License. All copyright will be retained by the creator. What you are doing is allowing eCampusOntario to distribute that content freely throughout the Ontario PSE sector (colleges, Indigenous institutes, universities). The VLS supports the Ontario PSE sector to work collaboratively together and creating learning content that is shareable to all Ontario PSE will help all college, Indigenous institutes and universities deliver the best online education for Ontario students. You may choose to select an additional license (for example, Creative Commons) that allows for your work to be shared beyond Ontario.

2. **What is Creative Commons License, and which Creative Commons License can I apply to my project?**
   Creative Commons licenses (CC) are standardized and legally enforceable tools that grant the public permission to use creative and academic work under copyright law. All CC licenses ensure that you, as the creator, retain your copyright, are credited for your work, while still allowing others certain permissions for use depending on the license selected. Visit https://creativecommons.org/about/cclicenses/ to find which CC license is most suitable for your content**.**

3. **For courses or other content that would be made available for adoption or adaptation in the eCampusOntario library, what happens if a course is adapted in such a way that the original author may not agree with the interpretation or presentation of their course materials that are being offered at another institution?**
   The Ontario Commons License defines derivative work but does not have any caveat because it does not limit or reduce any rights or exclusive rights under the Copyright Act, such as Fair Dealing.
   An author(s) who feel that a derivative of their work has caused or can cause damage(s) to their reputation may want to consider their integrity rights granted under Moral Rights in the Copyright Act, assuming they have not waived such rights.
   We highly recommend connecting with a copyright librarian or the legal team at your institution for a personalized legal response to your copyright questions.

4. **Which Creative Commons License(s) is acceptable for the Ontario Commons License - No Derivatives projects?**
You can only apply one license to your work. So, if you are using an Ontario Commons nonderivative license you would not layer another Creative Commons license on top of it.

5. **How do I mark my work with a Creative Commons license?**
The Open Library will add a Creative Commons license notice to your work when cataloguing your content if you select a Creative Commons license option at the time of submitting your work. We also recommend integrating the Creative Commons license mark into the content itself where applicable. For more information, please visit:
https://creativecommons.org/choose/

Open Library

1. **Does eCampusOntario provide web hosting/course administration support?**
eCampusOntario Open Library does not provide web hosting or course administration support. Instead, the library will provide downloaded files of courses, and, if provided by the creator(s), a URL to access the course.

2. **Do all products have to go into the Open Library?**
All final products will be submitted to the eCampusOntario Library. This includes all source files and/or editable files used in creating the resource to easily enable further remixing and modification, where permitted by the license.

3. **Can I use a web page/site to create my project?**
Yes, you can use a web page or site to create your project as long as you can provide the source code along with the URL at the time of submission. Please note that eCampusOntario will not provide hosting support for web pages or platforms, as stated in the EOIs.

Proposal Submission

1. **Can an application be submitted to adapt an OER that was developed outside of VLS?**
Yes, you can apply to adapt any OER.

2. **Is there a page limit for the proposal submissions?**
Yes, submissions are limited to 7 pages total (5-page maximum for the proposal, plus 2-page

maximum attestation). Page limits include a project plan and budget.

3. **Does the submission require sign-off by an individual with authority to bind the institution?**
   Yes, someone with the authority to bind the institution will need to sign the attestation.

4. **If a submission is one topic consisting of five modules, is this considered "bundling?" Would each module need to be submitted separately?**
   We differentiate bundling from modularization. Bundling was used in the first round of funding to allow applicants to submit multiple projects and project types within one application. We are not allowing that this year. However, we are encouraging modularization of the projects. For example, if you're creating a course, there may be many components (e.g., a syllabus, a test bank, modules, slide decks, recordings, activities, etc.). Breaking out the components of your project are considered modularization, so if you have five modules that are connected and related, that is okay within one project.

5. **Are projects expected to submit references? Would it be advisable to break APA protocol and include hyperlinks rather than references at the end?**
   References must be included within the 5-page limit. We encourage project teams to use creative solutions to provide adequate attribution, but we do not expect formal citations in these applications.