

2016/17 Request for Proposals for New Innovative Curriculum Delivery Projects

Reference: ONCAT 16/17 RFP — Innovative Curriculum Delivery
Submission deadline: January 9, 2017
Extended to: January 16, 2017

Overview

ONCAT is seeking proposals for innovative projects that develop and implement strategies to enhance student mobility, expand opportunities for students to transfer, and increase postsecondary collaboration in order to contribute to the ongoing development of a more seamless postsecondary education system in Ontario. The focus is on supporting the creation of new forms of innovative curriculum delivery that expand transfer opportunities for students through academic collaboration among institutions.

About ONCAT

Established in 2011, the Ontario Council on Articulation and Transfer (ONCAT) was created to enhance student pathways and reduce barriers for students looking to transfer among Ontario's 45 publicly assisted postsecondary institutions. As a member organization, ONCAT works with colleges and universities to develop transfer credit policies and practices to ease student mobility while also respecting institutional responsibility for academic integrity.

The provincial government of Ontario's vision for credit transfer is as follows:

Ontario will have a comprehensive, transparent and consistently applied credit transfer system that will improve student pathways and mobility, support student success and make Ontario a postsecondary education destination of choice. The credit transfer system will assist qualified students to move between postsecondary institutions or programs without repeating prior, relevant learning.

The government believes realizing this vision will make it easier for students to navigate the postsecondary education system, reach their preferred educational destination faster, and enter or re-enter the labour market sooner.

In the short time since ONCAT's inception, we have achieved tangible results — from collecting the first set of [data on Ontario credit transfer students](#) to ensuring the [transparency of transfer policies](#). We have also vastly increased the number of student pathways through supporting almost 150 pathway development projects. Together, these projects cover a broad range of high-demand programs such as business, environmental studies, computer science, and community

and social services, in all directions of transfer including diploma-to-degree, diploma-to-diploma, apprenticeship-to-diploma, degree-to-diploma, and degree-to-degree. We have also funded concurrent research projects that have led to a greater understanding of both the student and the institutional experiences of transfer.

RFP Submission criteria

A wide range of creative approaches are employed by institutions to facilitate student transfer. In ONCAT's experience, the most innovative approaches to student mobility have emerged through institutional partners who have imagined and developed new models of academic collaboration. ONCAT wishes to actively encourage this innovation by soliciting proposals that focus on developing new forms of curriculum delivery, including potentially new or different types of institutional arrangements that facilitate mobility.

The intent is to support innovation through providing a safe space to experiment. As such, the boundaries for potential projects are deliberately widely cast, with the essential qualification being that projects must aim to facilitate student transfer through academic collaboration between institutions. A key outcome is sharing lessons learned and creating new approaches and resources that support the development of a more seamless postsecondary education system in Ontario.

All proposals should include:

- An outline of the proposed new form of curriculum delivery and/or academic collaboration, including an overview of how it fits into the current postsecondary context;
- An explanation of how the project relates to student mobility and the development of a more seamless postsecondary system;
- Indication of any potential on-line components or new programs that are intended to result from the project;
- A strategy and timeline for the implementation of the project, including any required approvals processes.

NOTE: We appreciate that, due to their nature, new curriculum delivery proposals may sometimes involve or result in new program development, including programs that require Ministry approval. Please be aware that ONCAT project awards are not connected to any program approvals processes, and successful proposals should not be understood as having been endorsed by the Ministry. As such, we encourage proponents to discuss any potential new programs with the Ministry prior to submitting a project proposal.

RFP Budgets and Timelines

Proposal budgets must adhere to the guidelines indicated on the ONCAT RFP Budget Form (see below). To allow for the widest possible range of proposals, except where otherwise indicated, no maximum funding limit is set; however, requested amounts may require additional rationale before approval. Activities and/or personnel that are currently funded through the Credit Transfer Institutional Grant (CTIG) are not eligible for ONCAT funding.

Where possible, projects should be scheduled for completion, including submission of a final report to ONCAT, by March 15, 2018. Projects that propose to extend beyond this timeline should provide a clear rationale for requiring additional time.

Deliverables

Proponents should be prepared to submit the following to ONCAT as part of their project deliverables:

- An interim report midway through the project
- A final report detailing the complete development of the new form of curriculum delivery/academic collaboration, including:
 - An executive summary;
 - A complete description of the project that will act as a resource to the system;
 - An explanation of how the project enhances student mobility, including, where applicable, how much credit will be granted to students and how it will be applied;
 - A detailed explanation of how the new format was developed, including any curriculum/learning outcomes analysis or explanation of the development of any new curriculum;
 - Details of expected implementation dates, including a list of completed and pending approvals, as applicable, and the date that the pathway will be posted on ONTransfer.ca;
 - A report on “promising practices” and “lessons learned” from the project, in order that future proponents can build on the project experiences; and,
 - A detailed financial statement.

Proposal submission process

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Submissions should include the following components:

- 1) [ONCAT RFP Submission form](#) (as an MSWord document)
- 2) [ONCAT RFP Budget form](#) (as an MSEXcel document)
- 3) [ONCAT RFP Signature form](#) (as a pdf or scanned image)

Please submit the above documents by email to: policyandprograms@oncat.ca. Hard copies are not required.

NOTE: CVs of project team members may be requested as part of the proposal evaluation process.

Proposal evaluation process

Your proposal will be peer-reviewed by an expert panel, including VPAs from ONCAT member institutions, past project leads, and key members of the postsecondary community. In general, proposals will be evaluated according to their:

- Clarity and comprehensiveness;
- Demonstrated alignment with the goals and criteria of the RFP;
- Achievability/applicability of milestones, timelines, and budgets in the context of previous projects; and
- Contributions to the development of Ontario's postsecondary education system.

After the initial review, we may follow-up with proponents to address panel questions. Your prompt response is appreciated to expedite the review process. Once any questions are addressed and a decision has been made, you will be notified via email. Please note that submissions may be approved in principle pending a final budget/administrative review. We aim to arrive at final decisions on most proposals by March 1, 2017.

Successful proponents

Successful proponents will be expected to enter into a formal agreement with ONCAT, which will outline the terms and conditions of funding, specifying the project goals, timelines, and expected outcomes.

Contact

If you have questions about this RFP or require additional details, please contact Lena Balata, Project Officer, ONCAT at 416-640-6951 ext. 303 or lbالاتا@oncat.ca.