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## Purpose

Proposals are solicited for funding from Council of Australian University Librarians (CAUL) Open Educational Resources (OER) Collective member institutions to support creation, adoption, adaptation, expansion, and promotion of the use of OER across the institution and among Australian and Aotearoa New Zealand higher education institutions.

## Grant Outcomes

The 2025-26 OER Collective Grant Program aims to:

- Raise awareness of OER among faculty, staff, and students in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand higher education institutions.
- Demonstrate the evolution of Open Education in Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand and evaluate the impact and benefit of Open Education to students and communities in terms of learning, culturally relevant resources and practices, and more.

## Key Dates and Process

Activity	Date
Expressions of interest open	25 March 2025
Expressions of interest close: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate grant</li><li>• All other grants</li></ul>	30 May 2025 2 May 2025
OER Collective Grant Review Panel reviews applications. Grant recipients announced: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collaborate grant</li><li>• All other grants</li></ul>	Mid-June 2025 Mid to late May 2025
Submission of complete copyedited, proofread, peer reviewed OER to CAUL. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Actualise grant</li><li>• Collaborate grant</li><li>• All other grants</li></ul>	December 2025 December 2026 June 2026

The OER Collective Grant Review Panel will review and approve the allocation of grant funds.

To avoid conflicts of interest, OER Collective Grant Review Panel members will not review grant proposals submitted by institutions by which they are currently or previously employed.

## Instructions for Proposal Submission

All expressions of interest should follow the [Grant Expression of Interest Template](#) and be submitted by any member of the lead institution project team via [2025-26 Grant Round EOI Submission form](#) as a single MS Word (.doc or .docx) attachment by the deadline indicated in the Key Dates and Process table above.

## Grant Award Categories

The 2025-26 CAUL OER Collective Grants have six categories with seven grant opportunities available.

<b>CREATION</b>	<p><b>Collaborate</b></p> <p>Duration/expected completion: 18-months (complete Dec 2026)</p> <p>Purpose: Creation of major collaborative text</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Institutions subscribed to the Collective in 2025-26.</li> <li>• Cross-institutional collaboration is required (i.e. project team consists of authors from multiple institutions).</li> <li>• Institutions must demonstrate how equity will be built into the design (e.g. voices of marginalised groups, UDL, accessibility, student co-creators, etc.).</li> <li>• Must be a high-impact text/subject.</li> </ul>	<p>One grant available</p> <p><b>AUD 10,000</b></p> <p>Expend: Stipend 1: Jan 2026 Stipend 2: June 2026</p>
<b>CREATION</b>	<p><b>Create</b></p> <p>Duration/expected completion: 12 months (complete June 2026)</p> <p>Purpose: Creation grant to complete a new text</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Institutions subscribed to the Collective in 2025-26.</li> <li>• Any topic/discipline.</li> </ul>	<p>One grant available</p> <p><b>AUD 2,500</b></p> <p>Expend: Dec 2025</p>
<b>CREATION</b>	<p><b>Leap</b></p> <p>Duration/expected completion: 12 months (complete June 2026)</p> <p>Purpose: Creation grant to support an unpublished institution to complete a new text</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: OERC institutions who have not published an OER.</li> </ul>	<p>One grant available</p> <p><b>AUD 2,500</b></p> <p>Expend: Dec 2025</p>

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>CREATION</b></p>	<p><b>Actualise</b></p> <p>Duration: 6 months (complete Dec 2025)</p> <p>Purpose: Complete an in-progress project in 2025</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Institutions subscribed to the Collective solely in 2025.</li> <li>• Institutions must demonstrate the project is near completion.</li> <li>• Institutions must describe how the funding will support project completion (e.g. copyediting, cultural sensitivity review, etc.).</li> </ul>	<p>One grant available</p> <p><b>AUD 2,000</b></p> <p>Expend: June 2025</p>
<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"><b>ADOPTION</b></p>	<p><b>Adopt+</b></p> <p>Duration/expected completion: 12 months (complete June 2026)</p> <p>Purpose: This new grant addresses the widespread need for supplementary resources to boost the adoption of OER. This grant supports the creation of resources for use with existing OER that will be adopted by the institution.</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Institutions subscribed to the Collective in 2025-26.</li> <li>• Institution selects a high-impact* course to focus adoption efforts to convert from commercial textbook adoption to OER adoption.</li> <li>• Institution creates openly licensed supplementary teaching and learning resources to pair with the OER adopted for the course. This could include, but is not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Quiz banks</li> <li>○ Lecture slide deck</li> <li>○ H5P and other embedded interactive activities</li> <li>○ Interactive videos</li> <li>○ Case studies, scenarios and worked solutions</li> <li>○ Demonstrations or simulations</li> <li>○ Supplementary notes such as lesson plans and activities</li> <li>○ Images (e.g. anatomy images to go with an anatomy text)</li> <li>○ Course cartridge (suite of resources to support teaching with the text that can be imported into common LMS platforms)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• The OER selected should be one where supplementary resources would be highly sought after across our region.</li> <li>• All supplementary resources created must be either readily reusable (no adaptation required) or easily adaptable by other institutions in the Collective and include adaptation guidance.</li> </ul> <p>*High-impact includes, but is not limited to: high-enrolment, high textbook cost, high population of marginalised students, highly-used commercial textbook across the region, etc.</p>	<p>Two grants available</p> <p><b>2x AUD 2,500</b></p> <p>Expend: Dec 2025</p>

<b>TELL US WHAT YOU NEED</b>	<p><b>Wildcard</b></p> <p>Duration: 12 months (complete June 2026)</p> <p>Purpose: Support projects that don't fit into other OER Collective grant categories</p> <p>Key details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eligibility: Institutions subscribed to the Collective in 2025-26.</li> <li>• Institutions must make the case for support and explain how they'll use the funding.</li> <li>• Favourable applications will include details of how the project will be impactful and useful for the whole Collective (i.e. how other institutions can make use of the resulting product)</li> <li>• Examples of potential support needs (not a comprehensive list): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Practical OER advocacy tools and programs</li> <li>○ Targeted training on specific areas of open ed work (with longevity)</li> <li>○ Diversity and representation development/adaptation guidelines</li> <li>○ Other creation or adoption idea that doesn't fit into the other OER Collective grant categories</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>One grant available</p> <p><b>AUD 3,000</b></p> <p>Expend: Dec 2025</p>
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## Eligibility

- Grants are only open to academic staff employed at institutions participating in the OER Collective in 2025 and 2026. Specific institution eligibility requirements are listed against each grant in the table above. At least one member of the project team applying for the grant must be an academic staff member.
- Projects may involve students as co-creators, however, funding will be awarded to the academic staff members.
- Non-ongoing staff are eligible for grants, however, at least one member of the project team must have an academic contract through until the scheduled completion of the OER.
- Early career academics are encouraged to submit.
- Collaborators may be involved from institutions that are not participating in the Collective, but these collaborators cannot receive funding or access to the OER Collective Pressbooks platform.
- All grant recipients will be required to contribute to the Collective community via knowledge-sharing (e.g. via presentation at a CoP, etc.).
- All grant recipients will be required to contribute to an impact study by collecting and supplying impact data via a template that will aid in demonstrating the value and impact of the OER Collective, thus, supporting sustainability efforts.

## Requirements

Applicants must:

- Sign a memorandum of understanding between CAUL, the lead institution's authors and the [key institutional library contact](#).
- Permit CAUL and your university library to use usage data from the OER to assist with evaluation of the OER Collective.
- Provide progress reports on the project to the CAUL Office, as requested.
- Have the adequate skill and drive to plan and deliver an OER project.
- Attend OER Collective Community of Practice, Training, and other events throughout 2025-26.
- Submit the full copyedited, proofread, peer reviewed OER to the CAUL Office by the relevant deadline in the Key Dates and Processes table above.
- With the support of institutional library staff:
  - Take responsibility for inputting OER content in the OER Collective Pressbooks Platform.
  - Seek and follow copyright, licensing, and accessibility advice.
  - Undergo a peer review process.
- Have the support of the [key institutional library contact](#) who has agreed to provide:
  - Planning and check-in meetings to ensure the project stays on track.
  - Support ensuring the finished works meet accessibility standards.
  - An invoice to CAUL for the grant amount when requested. Grant funds must be transferred from CAUL to the institution before the relevant expenditure deadline in the Grant Award Categories table above or they will be forfeited.
  - Connection with other library or support staff depending on the needs of the project.
  - Assistance with inputting OER content on the CAUL OER Collective Pressbooks Platform.
  - Copyright consultations on using existing materials and licensing original materials.
  - Facilitation of the peer review process.

The proposed OER must:

- Be published on the [CAUL OER Collective Pressbooks platform](#).
- Be openly licensed with a [Creative Commons Attribution Non-Commercial 4.0 International \(CC-BY-NC 4.0\)](#) licence unless otherwise negotiated.
- Be accessible (e.g. alt text for images, captions and transcripts for audiovisual materials).
- Be compliant with copyright law in Australia or Aotearoa New Zealand and meet the copyright policy standards of the lead institution.
- Include both the CAUL OER Collective logo and the lead institution's logo on the OER cover.
- Not have any portion of the OER restricted (e.g. cannot be password protected or access otherwise restricted).

Note that the proposed OER can already be in progress on the CAUL OER Collective Pressbooks platform.

## Selection Criteria

All categories will be scored against the following criteria.

Criteria	Points
A description of the OER is provided in the <b>abstract</b> and overview of content, providing evidence of a well conceptualised OER project.	5
A compelling <b>rationale</b> is provided for the OER providing evidence of a need for the OER.	5
The project is achievable within the time available. Evidence may include a realistic <b>timeline</b> , realistic project scope, a sufficiently detailed description that evidences planning has commenced, an indication that materials are available for adaptation, an indication that writing has commenced, information provided about how funding will be used.	5
Contains local content – Australian.	2
Contains local content – Aotearoa New Zealand.	2
The OER can be used in both Australia and Aotearoa New Zealand (i.e. does not include substantial content that is irrelevant in one country, or it includes tailored content for both countries where content must be differentiated for each country, for example, based on local law). Incorporation of Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori knowledge, perspectives and or language is encouraged.	1
Contains Indigenous content (through meaningful consultation with Indigenous Peoples)	5
The OER is associated with a first-year course	1
The OER has the potential to be used across several institutions.	1
The EOI provides strong evidence that the author team has appropriate disciplinary expertise and/or teaching experience. May include evidence such as: number of years teaching or researching in the field; number of years in practice; number of publications; evidence of other expertise that will be contributed (e.g. learning design expertise; experience with content development for the web); teaching awards; evidence of depth of knowledge in a specific area (e.g. recent PhD on topic).	5
One or more authors are Indigenous	3
Bonus points allocated by OER Collective Grant Review Panellists	5
<b>Total available points</b>	<b>40</b>

Note that the criteria above are not the only factor when making decisions on which applications to award grant funding to; it is one tool for assessing the proposals. The OER Collective Grant Review Panel and OER Collective Advisory Group may have further discussion in which any other thoughts and questions will be incorporated in the final decision.

## Expression of Interest Template

Find the template on the CAUL OER Collective Pressbooks platform

<https://oercollective.caul.edu.au/grants>