THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Faculty of Forestry

Call for Proposals for Forestry Teaching Innovation Fund Projects 2023-2024

Overview

UBC Forestry faculty members (i.e., full-time lecturers or tenure-stream faculty) are invited to submit proposals for 2023-2024 Forestry Teaching Innovation Fund (FTIF) projects. FTIF aims to support innovative teaching practices, experimentation with pedagogical approaches, and the application of emerging learning technologies in Forestry courses.

This year, the main theme is to **integrate innovative tools, such as artificial intelligence (AI), in teaching and learning to improve accessibility, inclusion, universal design for learning, and academic integrity**.

- The total amount of the fund is **$10,000** in 2023-2024.
- Individual project funding ranges from **$1,000 to $5,000,** depending on the scale and focus.
- FTIF can cover licensing, online subscriptions, memberships, content development (Academic Assistants), or material costs for learning technologies (e.g., generative AI, adaptive learning and assessment tools).
- Technologies which are punitive, exploitative, non-inclusive, or could violate student privacy protections are not the purpose and will not be supported.
- FTIF does not cover the expense of hardware or equipment (e.g., cameras, microphones, etc.), or student licenses for professional software (e.g., ArcGIS Pro).
- FTIF accepts applications **once** a year, and the deadline for submissions is the end of day on **October 27, 2023**.
- A decision on which projects will be funded will be made in **November 2023**.

Eligibility

- UBC Forestry faculty members (full-time lecturer or tenure-stream faculty) are eligible to apply.
- Principal applicants cannot hold > 1 FTIF funded projects at once.
- Applications for bridging projects to the next TLEF competition will be considered. However, the principal applicants cannot hold a TLEF fund concurrently with FTIF.

Application & Submission

- Complete the **one-page application form** (see details in the attached Word file), and send it to Michelle Zeng, Senior Manager, Educational Strategies (michelle.zeng@ubc.ca), by the end of day on **Friday, September 29, 2023**.
- For questions, please contact Michelle Zeng for consultation.
- The required information for application includes the project description, potential impacts/benefits, timeline for the implementation, evaluation metrics, sustainability beyond FTIF, and support needed.
- Given the complexities of incorporating emerging AI tools into teaching, a brainstorming session offered by Forestry Teaching & Learning Support (TLS) will be organized for potential applicants to review some options and best practices.

Project Assessment

- The initial assessment will be completed by the Forestry TLS team. It will be based on the overall impact of the project, ethical implications (legal, privacy concerns, social, etc.), cost-effectiveness, and the ease of implementation.
- The TLS team will examine the learning tool's privacy policies based on the guidelines from UBC's Privacy Impact Assessment, and its data governance as per guidelines of the Data Governance Program if applicable.
- The results of the initial assessment will be reviewed by an evaluation committee including the Associate Dean, Academic, and representatives from the Professor of Teaching stream, Forestry IT team, and the TLS team for decision.
- Successful applicants are required to provide a one-page report on their project 12 months following the receipt of FTIF.
- Successful applicants will also be invited to present the outcomes and achievements in the Faculty Teaching and Learning Seminar.

Support

The Forestry TLS team provides a wide range of services to instructors experimenting with new and innovative learning technologies. These services include consultation on design, testing, analysis, research and development, and more. The TLS team also collaborates with UBC CTLT and LT Hub to ensure the best possible service for the faculty.

- For approved projects, the TLS team will assist applicants in the sales negotiation with the learning technology providers.
- During the implementation phase, the TLS team can provide training and technical support, such as managing accounts, graphic design using HTML and CSS, and bug fixes.
- The TLS team can also engage in research and publications from the work funded by FTIF.