

LATN: Open Educational Resources Initiative

Guidelines for Applicants (2026)

Purpose

The Libraries of the Australian Technology Network of Universities (LATN) are offering grants of up to \$50,000 to support the transition of traditional textbooks and resources to Open Educational Resources (OER). This initiative aims to enhance student access to essential study materials by removing cost barriers associated with traditional textbooks or restrictive licensing practices. Funds should ultimately facilitate the release of an educational resource that is open and freely available to all under a Creative Commons – By Attribution (CC BY) or similar licence agreed to by LATN.

The initiative supports:

1. **The adaptation of existing textbooks and resources** to open formats, including retrospective conversion to open access where permitted by the publisher.
2. **The development of new OERs** that align with course curricula, including multimedia content, publishing platform access, and associated learning design support.

Funding Available

- Total pool: Not specified (competitive allocation)
- Grant size: Typically, \$10,000–\$50,000¹

Eligibility

Applications must:

- Be led by a faculty or staff member of a LATN member university or International Associate within the ATN network; Auckland University of Technology, Curtin University, Deakin University, the University of Newcastle, RMIT University, Nanyang Technology University, or University of Technology Sydney. Collaborative projects between multiple institutions or departments are preferred;
- Focus on adapting existing textbooks and resources or developing new OERs that align with course curricula;
- Propose a project that will result in an educational resource released under a Creative Commons – By Attribution (CC BY) licence or other CC BY licence by agreement, freely available to all;
- Include a Project Proposal using the LATN: Open Educational Resources Initiative Application Form (max 5 pages) covering:
 - Title and summary of the project, lead faculty/staff member and their institution along with other participating faculties/staff and their institutions, objectives, timeline, detailed and justified budget, and expected outcomes;
 - Description of the target student population and courses that will benefit, demonstrating how the project will support student learning and success, particularly for first and second year cohorts; and
 - An outline of how opportunities for participation by early-career, diverse and/or under-represented researchers have been considered.
- Eligible activities:
 - Publisher or publication fees to make a monograph open access, including rights reacquisition to publish open access

¹ Grants of up to \$50,000 are available per project. Requests must include a detailed and justified budget. The selection process is competitive and LATN reserves the right to partially fund or not fund any submission.

- Developing, adapting, or creating new OER content, including multimedia
- Rights clearances and licencing
- Exploratory work:
 - Buy out of academic time to write, adapt, or develop OER content
 - Engagement of learning designers, curriculum designers, or other specialist expertise

Applications must not include classified or export-controlled information. All proposals will be assessed based on non-confidential summaries suitable for committee-level review. Commercial-in-confidence information should be clearly marked and limited to what is necessary for assessment.

Applications assessed but not funded may be resubmitted once, provided the resubmission addresses issues identified during eligibility checks or assessment.

Ineligible Activities

- Reimbursement for costs already incurred
- Procurement of resources, subscriptions, or services not directly related to OER development, adaptation, or dissemination
- Publication of funded outputs under a licence more restrictive than Creative Commons – By Attribution (CC BY) unless otherwise agreed to by LATN
- OERs with dependent linkages to commercial content, activities and/or courses.
- Use of funds for purposes other than those outlined in the approved application.
- Transfer of funds to a third party or institution not named in the approved application without prior written approval from LATN.

How to Submit

Email the application to info@atn.edu.au with the subject line: “*LATN OER – [Lead Institution] – [Project Title]*”.

Assessment

Applications are assessed by the LATN committee on a competitive basis.

Key criteria:

1. Relevance and need: the degree to which the project addresses a clear and significant need for open educational resources
2. Impact: potential impact on student access, textbook affordability, and learning outcomes
3. Feasibility: realism of the proposed timeline, budget, and resource allocation
4. Innovation: creativity in approach to transitioning materials to open access or developing new resources
5. Collaboration and cross-institutional application: degree of collaboration among institutions or departments, or broad application across LATN institutions

Timing

- Applications open: **27 July 2026**
- Applications accepted on a rolling basis until: **6 September 2026** (firm end date), or until the available funds are fully committed
- Applications will be assessed in the week commencing 7 September 2026
- Applicants will be notified of a decision within two weeks of the assessment date

Reporting Requirements

Lead institutions of funded projects are required to provide a short one-page progress report at the 50% completion point as per the project timeline, and a post-activity update within 6 months of activity completion, covering:

- Summary of OER(s) produced or adapted, including link(s) to published resource(s) and confirmation of licence applied

- Initial impact on student access, including number of students and courses benefiting from the OER
- Detailed expenditure of funds reconciled against the approved budget
- Potential for scalability and adoption by other institutions

Funded projects are also expected to contribute, where appropriate, to ATN's promotion and translation of outcomes, in alignment with member university ethics frameworks.

For more information, visit the LATN Libraries Grant Page or contact your Local LATN member:

Auckland University of Technology: Kim Tairi kim.tairi@aut.ac.nz

Curtin University: Claire Murphy claire.murphy@curtin.edu.au

Deakin University: Angie Williamson angie.w@deakin.edu.au

Nanyang Technology University: Caroline Pang carolinepang@ntu.edu.sg

RMIT University: Anne Lennox anne.lennox@rmit.edu.au

University of Newcastle: Fiona Jones fiona.jones@newcastle.edu.au

University of Technology, Sydney: Michael Gonzalez michael.gonzalez.uts.edu.au

General enquiries should be directed to: info@atn.edu.au

LATN: Open Educational Resources Initiative

Application Form (2026)

Section 1: Lead Applicant Details

- Project Title:
- Short summary (150-200 words): Describe the goal, the OER to be produced or adapted, target student cohort, and expected outcomes.
Example: This project aims to convert an existing first-year biology textbook into an openly licensed OER, removing cost barriers for approximately 1,200 students annually across two LATN universities. The team will adapt and redesign the content using Pressbooks, engage a learning designer to build interactive elements, and release the final resource under CC BY. The goal is a freely available, curriculum-aligned OER available by Semester 1, 2027.
- Lead LATN university:
- Lead applicant name & position:
- Email & phone:

Section 2: Participating LATN members

List the other LATN member universities involved and participating:

- Institution 1:
- Institution 2 (optional):
- Additional academic partners (optional):

The lead institution must confirm that each participating institution has internal approval to participate in this activity.

Section 3: Project Type

Please select one:

- ☐ Adaptation or conversion of existing textbook/resource to OER
- ☐ Coverage of publisher fees to publish a new title open access, or rights reacquisition of existing textbook
- ☐ Development of new OER aligned with course curricula

Section 4: Proposed Activity

Provide a short description (approx. 500-800 words) covering:

- What the funding will support and how it will result in an openly licensed educational resource
- What student cohort and course(s) will benefit from the OER, and what is the estimated number of students impacted?
- What existing textbook or resource is being adapted (if applicable), and what publisher or licensing arrangements are in place or planned?
- How the project will support student learning and success, and contribute to removing cost barriers for first and second year cohorts
- Expected output (e.g. open textbook, multimedia OER, adapted course materials) and the platform on which it will be published

Example:

- Write additional content and adaption for existing OER (September – October 2026)
- Peer Review (November 2026)
- Progress report (November 2026)

- Engage learning designer to implement adaptations, create new content assets, and restructure existing content (November - December 2026)
- Build, publish and release OER under CC BY licence (January 2027)
- Report on student uptake and impact by 30 June 2027

Section 5: Publisher / Platform Engagement

List any confirmed or prospective publisher, platform, or collaborator arrangements²:

- Publisher / platform name(s):
- Engagement to date or planned (e.g. open access agreement, Pressbooks licence, Creative Commons terms negotiated):

Section 6: Inclusion and Capability Development

Briefly outline (dot points acceptable):

- How the project engages early-career researchers (if applicable)
- Any inclusion of diverse or under-represented groups (if applicable)

Section 7: Budget

Amount requested: \$ _____

Provide a simple line-item budget, making sure to include:

- Total budget for the proposed activity (including any co-contributions or existing funding sources);
- Clear breakdown of how the requested ATN funding will be allocated (e.g. by activity or percentage); and
- Confirmation that sufficient overall resourcing is in place to support delivery of the proposed activity

Activity	Cost (\$)

Note: Grants of up to \$50,000 are available. Requests above this amount will not be considered. Ensure all budget items are directly related to OER development, adaptation, or dissemination.

Section 8: Timeline

- Expected commencement date:
- Expected completion date:
- Key milestones, including description of the activity/event and timeline (dot points):

Section 9 Outcomes & Next Steps

Briefly outline (dot points acceptable):

- Expected outcome(s) of the activity
- Planned follow-on actions (e.g., course adoption date, institutional roll-out, scalability to other universities)

Section 10: Institutional endorsement

Submission of this application by the lead institution confirms that the proposal has undergone internal review and is approved for submission in line with the institution's governance and delegation arrangements.

² Where applicable, applicants should confirm that any publisher or platform arrangements (e.g. open access agreements, Pressbooks licences) have been discussed and are feasible prior to submission.

Lead institution authorised submitter

Name:

Position:

Email:

- ☐ I confirm this application is being submitted by the lead institution.
- ☐ I confirm that participating institutions have obtained internal endorsement (no additional signatures required).
- ☐ (Optional) I am happy for the LATN to investigate potential partners to support development of this project from other LATN institutions.

Applicant declaration

I confirm that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge, that all named partners and participating institutions are aware of and have agreed to be included, and that the activity involves at least two LATN member universities.

I acknowledge that, if funded, the project will contribute to ATN promotion and translation activities, subject to institutional and ethical requirements.

Signature:

Date: