



BI-WEEKLY UPDATE

Hats Off:

The LAR team would like to tip their hat to Rishi Bhardwaj, professor in the Okanagan College School of Business, for his commitment to learner success through the adoption of project based learning and alternative assessment. We quite enjoyed hearing about the case-based learning taking place in your marketing classes.

Special thanks to Rick Montagnon from facilities, for being a kind soul and making sure staff safely walk from their car to the building during these icy conditions.

Cool Tool Alert:

Do you sometimes wonder if you are assigning students too much material? It can be challenging to discern what the appropriate amount of content is. Beginning with aligning your course learning outcomes directly with your assessments, you can then apply the [Workload Estimator](#) to help you determine an appropriate amount of rigor that provides students with opportunities for practice and feedback, while ensuring they are not overwhelmed .

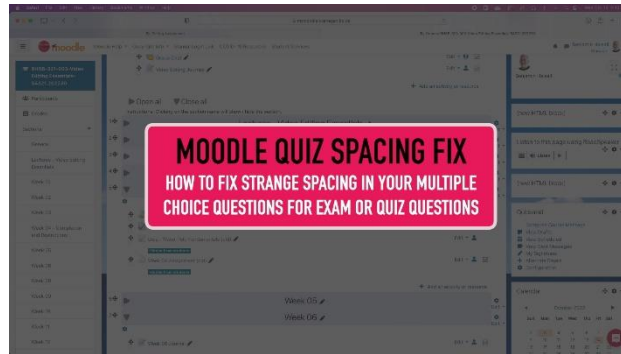
Points of Note:

Preparing for Exams.... Please read carefully

The LAR team is here to support you as you prepare for exams.

- If you are looking for innovative assessment strategies, please contact LAR at learningandappliedresearch@okanagan.bc.ca.
- If you are interested, one of our Education Technology Coordinators would be happy to do a review of settings on your final exam, send a request to edtech@okanagan.bc.ca by November 24, 2022 for an appointment.
- Appointments requests will be set up on a first come, first serve basis.
- Exam Supports: If students experience challenges during an exam, please refer them to the IT Helpdesk 250-762-5445 ext. 4444 or 1-866-839-4032.

Knowledge Base: Fix Strange Spacing in Multiple Choice Questions



Accommodations and Publisher Resources

An important consideration when utilizing gradeable publisher resources in your Moodle course, such as quizzes and assignments, is the challenge in accommodating students with accessibility requirements (additional attempts/time, out of time schedules, etc.).

As these LTI integrations connect to resources outside of Moodle, there is no easy way to apply an override for an individual or group of students like you can with Moodle Quizzes and Assignments.

Please check with your publisher representative to determine if the tool has the ability to apply user overrides within the settings.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to a member of our team for assistance.

Creating Accessible PDFs for Use with Text-to-Speech Software

[Accessibility Handbook for Teaching and Learning](#) by Briana Fraser and Luke McKnight of Langara is available online for **free** and provides all kinds of tips for improving accessibility of your course content such as documents. For example, use Sans-serif fonts (e.g. Helvetica, Arial, Calibri, Times New Roman), a minimum of 18-point font for presentations, left-align content as opposed to using justified and at least 1.5 times spacing for line height.

PDF documents are often a problem with text-to-speech software including with the Readspeak plug-in in Moodle. If the scanning quality is poor, the software will not work. A chapter in this resource specifically addresses this issue and provides detailed solutions - [Creating Accessible PDFs](#). They suggest when scanning documents, scan one page at a time



(not two pages), scan in black and white, choose high resolution scanner settings (at least 300 DPI), and look for scanner options such as “searchable PDF” or “Text PDF”.

What if you are converting Word Documents to PDFs? How about clicking on “Investigate Accessibility” and follow the advice provided.

Education Technology Coordinator Support Portfolios

edtech@okanagan.bc.ca

Benjamin Halsall (*Mon-Fri – 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.*)

Arts and Foundational, Health and Social Development, Science and Technology, Trades

NOTE: Ben will be on the Penticton Campus on November 21st, you can visit him in the library from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tom Esson (*Mon-Fri – 8:30 to 11:00 a.m.*)

Business

Julie Dais (*Tue-Thu*)

Continuing Studies and Corporate Training

New Funding Opportunities

Do you have an idea for an applied research project with a focus on sustainable building and construction, social innovation, or sustainable environments?

As part of our NSERC funded Mobilize grant, we have funding available for emerging researchers who have a research interest in sustainable building and construction, social innovation, and sustainable environments and who have an industry/business/organization partner to implement the project. Each project approved may be funded up to \$20,000.00. The partner organization will be required to contribute \$250.00 cash to the project. The funding is intended to be used primarily to provide the researcher with some release time from their current responsibilities, student employment and materials for the project. We can fund approximately five projects.

The application form and budget requirements are available on our [website](#) under Applied Research - Services and Funding. Completed forms can be forwarded through [email](#). For this first round of funding, a committee will examine applications the week of December 12th, 2022.



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Applicants will be notified of the funding decisions prior to December 23rd. If you require further information, please contact Dr. Beverlie Dietze, bdietze@okanagan.bc.ca.

Attention Researchers!

Learning and Applied Research is seeking researchers and their partners interested in applying for 2023 NSERC - CCSIF Grants (College and Community Social Innovation Fund).

CCSIF is intended to foster social innovation by connecting the talent, facilities, and capabilities of Canada's colleges and polytechnics with the research needs of local community organizations. CCSIF proposals should facilitate collaborative social innovation research that brings together researchers, students, and partners to address research challenges in social innovation, leading to solutions addressing a Canadian community's needs.

If you have a research project and would like to take it forward with the NSERC – CCSIF 2023 Grant applications, please contact Shannon at sgolsof@okanagan.bc.ca on or before November 15, 2022, for information about the application process. NSERC allows a maximum of up to five applications from each college, hence the top five will be reviewed and selected for submission. Please visit the [NSERC website](#).

Researcher Data Management – Call for Focus Group Participants

Hold the dates

If you have conducted research at Okanagan College and would like to provide input on the future of RDM at OC, the Inspire Research Data Management Strategy project team invites you to join one of our focus groups. We will be holding virtual focus groups on the following times:

- Monday, Nov. 21, 8:30 – 9:30 am
- Tuesday, Nov. 22 10:00 – 11:00 am
- Friday, Nov. 25, 1:00 – 2:00 pm

If you would like to attend, please email learningandappliedresearch@okanagan.bc.ca with the date and time of the town hall that you will be attending. A Zoom link for the session will be sent to you. If you are unable to attend any of the sessions but would like to provide input, please send an email to learningandappliedresearch@okanagan.bc.ca.

Thank you from the project team members.

2023 Scholar & Research Trainee competitions: Applications Open

Michael Smith Health Research BC's Scholar and Research Trainee awards provide funding to support BC's next generation of health researchers in advancing science and improving the



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health of British Columbians. Applications are now open for the 2023 competitions.

Letter of intent deadline for the Scholar Program is Dec. 05, 2022, 4:30 (PST). Full application deadline is January 30, 2023. 4:40 (PST). There will be a webinar on November 15, 2022, 10:30 am (PST). Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

The Letter of intent deadline for the Research Trainee Program is Dec. 05, 2022, 4:30 (PST). Full application deadline is February 13, 2023. 4:40 (PST). There will be a webinar on November 16, 2022, 10:30 am (PST). Information on how to apply can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Workshops:

• Program Mapping- What does it mean and why have one	Nov. 14	2-3 pm
• Micro Session: Poodll (Moodle Audio Resource)	Nov. 16	12-12:30 pm
• Alternative Assessments in Moodle	Nov. 24	3:30-4:30 pm
• Moodle Housekeeping Drop-in (Penticton)	Nov. 29	9-11 am
• Gradebooks in Moodle	Nov. 30	3:30-4:30 pm

And more! Visit our entire schedule and register [here](#)

[BCcampus:](#)

FLO MicroCourse November 14, 2022 – November 20, 2022. To learn more and register visit [Leveraging Multimedia to Promote Active Learning](#).

Trades Summit Series: Strengthening Teaching and Learning for the Future November 24, 2022. To learn more and register visit [Trades Summit Series](#).

Learning and Teaching with LAR: Alternative Assessments

This series will be providing options for alternative assessment in each upcoming bi-weekly. Please let us know if you would like one of your approaches shared by emailing learningandappliedresearch@okanagan.bc.ca

1. Question and Answer Cards

Description: Make index cards for every student in the class; half with questions about class content and the other half with the right answers. Shuffle the cards and have students find their appropriate partner by comparing questions and answers on their own cards.



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Benefits: This is a kinesthetic activity that gets students out of their seats, chatting with one another. It builds community and prompts critical thinking as students evaluate multiple potential answers to come to the correct conclusion.

When this might be useful: This is a useful strategy for introducing concepts as a pre-assessment or as a strategy for review.

2. Digital Role Play

Description: Students create their own blogs and write diary-type entries while role-playing as someone, or something, central to your content.

Benefits: This type of abstract, creative thinking encourages students to look at topics from a different perspective, often leading to deeper investigation as they look to determine what this individual would find important and how they may perceive events and situations.

When this might be useful: This approach encourages synthesis and is well placed at the end of a unit of a unit for students to pull together their learning and make connections.

Interesting [Podcasts](#)

Please check out our new podcast section of the Bi-weekly. The podcast is called “Our Teaching Practice” and explores the experiences of Okanagan College instructors and faculty associated with their day-to-day teaching practice. Visit [Our Teaching Practice](#) to listen in.

Team Dynamics Service Requests

Your Moodle import has gone awry, and you need support asap. If this is the case, the best way to contact the entire Ed Tech Team is through a Team Dynamics service request. You can submit this by using the edtech@okanagan.bc.ca email address, rather than the personal emails of the education technology coordinators. This approach creates a record of your request and gets all available eyes on it immediately.

Our LAR team is here to help you with your instructional questions using Moodle and innovative ways to teach online, and we look forward to working with you to show you how to get the most out of the experience. Reaching us by email at [LAR](#) is the **very best** way to connect with us. We aim to respond as soon as we are able so that we can support you in finding good solutions to your questions. Please ensure you include the detailed course name and as much information as you can when making an inquiry.



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