EDI Student Initiatives Fund Application Questions– 2026–27

Overview:

The **EDI Student Initiatives Fund (EDI SIF)** supports Faculty of Information (FOI) students in bringing forward ideas that contribute to a more equitable, accessible, connected and inclusive student experience.

Individual FOI students and recognized student groups may apply for **up to $2,000** to support student-led initiatives and projects.

For 2026–27, there will be **one application round and one funded cohort**.

Application Deadline: November 1, 2026
Programming Period: November 15, 2026–March 31, 2027
EDI Student Initiatives Showcase: Week of April 12–16, 2027

The application is designed to be straightforward. You do not need to have every detail of your initiative finalized before applying.

Questions? Contact the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Unit (EDIU) at ediu.ischool@utoronto.ca.

Application Questions:

SECTION 1 — ABOUT YOU AND YOUR IDEA

1. Initiative Title

What would you like to call your initiative?

2. Student Group or Initiative Name

If applicable, provide the name of the student group, organization or initiative you are applying on behalf of.

3. Lead Organizer Name

4. Lead Organizer FOI Program

5. Lead Organizer Email

Please provide your University of Toronto email address.

6. Are there additional student organizers involved in planning or leading this initiative?

7. Additional Organizers

Please provide the **name, FOI program, role/relationship to the initiative, and email address** of each additional organizer.

8. When do you plan to deliver your initiative?

Funded initiatives must take place between **November 15, 2026 and March 31, 2027**.

Please provide your proposed date(s). If your exact date has not yet been confirmed, provide your anticipated timeframe.

We understand that plans may change. If funded, organizers must notify EDIU as early as possible about significant changes to approved dates or timelines.

9. Tell us about your idea.

Briefly tell us:

- What are you planning?
- Why do you think this initiative is needed or valuable?
- Who do you hope will participate or benefit?

You do not need to have every detail finalized at this stage.

SECTION 2 — FOCUS AREAS AND IMPACT

10. Which of the 2026–27 Focus Areas will your initiative contribute to?

☐ **Belonging and Community-Building** — Helping students build relationships, connect with one another, and strengthen their sense of belonging within the Faculty.

☐ **Student Engagement and Participation** — Creating meaningful opportunities for students to participate in, contribute to, and help shape Faculty life.

☐ **Representation and Visibility** — Highlighting and amplifying diverse student identities, experiences, perspectives and communities.

We recognize that initiatives may contribute to more than one focus area. You do not need to select all three, and applications will **not be assessed more favourably based on the number of focus areas selected**.

Select the areas that genuinely reflect what you hope your initiative will accomplish.

11. What do you hope students or the FOI community will gain from this initiative?

Consider:

- What difference do you hope the initiative will make?
- How will students have opportunities to participate, contribute or engage?
- What would help you know that the initiative was valuable or meaningful?

We recognize that impact can look different depending on the initiative. Attendance alone is not the only measure of impact.

SECTION 3 — PREVIOUS FUNDING AND PARTNERSHIPS

12. Have you, your student group, or this initiative previously received funding through the EDI Student Initiatives Fund?

13. Tell us about the previous EDI SIF funding.

Please briefly tell us:

- when the funding was received;
- what initiative was funded; and
- the amount received, if known.

If you are proposing the **same or a similar initiative**, briefly explain why you would like to offer it again and what you hope to **continue, change or build upon** based on the previous experience.

Previous EDI SIF funding does **not** automatically make an initiative ineligible for funding.

14. Will your initiative be organized, delivered, promoted or formally affiliated with another group, organization, event, conference, campaign or external partner?

15. Tell us about the partnership or affiliation.

Please identify the relevant group(s), organization(s), event(s) or partner(s) and briefly describe their involvement in the initiative.

EDI SIF-funded activities, including activities delivered in partnership with or as part of a larger event or initiative, must comply with applicable University of Toronto policies and requirements.

SECTION 4 — BUDGET AND FUNDING

16. What is the total anticipated cost of your initiative?

Please provide the estimated total cost, even if you are requesting only part of that amount from the EDI SIF.

17. How much funding are you requesting from the EDI Student Initiatives Fund?

Applicants may request up to **$2,000**.

18. Please provide a simple breakdown of how you expect to use the requested funding.

A detailed budget document is not required.

For example:

- Catering/refreshments — $300
- Materials — $250
- External facilitator — $500
- Poster/Flyer printing— $100

Estimates are acceptable at the application stage.

19. Are you receiving or seeking any other funding, sponsorship or in-kind support for this initiative?

20. Tell us about the other funding or support.

Please identify the source, amount or type of support, and whether it has been confirmed or is still being requested.

21. Does your proposed budget include payment or an honorarium for an external speaker, facilitator, artist, knowledge holder or other contributor?

22. Tell us about the external contributor.

Please briefly describe:

- their anticipated role;
- the amount you expect to pay; and
- how their involvement will contribute to the intended experience or impact of the initiative.

SECTION 5 — PLANNING, PROMOTION AND SUPPORT

23. Are there any practical needs or supports EDIU should know about at this stage?

For example:

- space or room requirements;
- technology or equipment;
- communications support;
- accessibility considerations;
- other Faculty support.

You do not need to have these details finalized before applying.

24. How do you plan to promote your initiative and reach the students you hope will participate?

Briefly describe how you plan to let students know about the initiative and **when you expect promotion to begin**.

If funded, promotional materials using the Faculty of Information, EDIU or University of Toronto name, logo or branding must be submitted to EDIU for review **before they are published or distributed**.

SECTION 6 — FUNDING EXPECTATIONS

Receiving EDI SIF funding involves a partnership between student organizers and EDIU. We understand that plans can change, and students are encouraged to communicate with EDIU early when changes or challenges arise.

If funded, organizers will be expected to:

- make reasonable efforts to deliver the initiative as described in the approved application;
- deliver the initiative between **November 15, 2026 and March 31, 2027**;
- maintain timely communication with EDIU;
- notify EDIU as early as possible of significant changes to dates, location, format, activities, partnerships, speakers or budget;
- receive EDIU approval before making significant changes to the approved initiative or use of funds;
- submit promotional materials using Faculty of Information, EDIU or University of Toronto names, logos or branding to EDIU for review before publication or distribution;
- provide sufficient time for promotion and participant outreach;
- disclose relevant partnerships, affiliations and collaborations;
- ensure funded activities, including those delivered in partnership with or as part of a larger event or initiative, comply with applicable University of Toronto policies and requirements;
- foster an environment in which participants are treated with dignity and respect and can participate without discrimination or harassment;
- retain required financial documentation and original itemized receipts;
- submit required receipts and expense documentation **within 30 days of completing the initiative**;
- complete a short post-initiative impact report **within 30 days of completing the initiative**; and
- participate in the **EDI Student Initiatives Showcase during the week of April 12–16, 2027**.

Participation in the year-end Showcase is a **condition of receiving EDI SIF funding**. Funded initiatives will contribute to the Showcase in an appropriate format, such as a

display, poster, photographs, project materials, resource, short presentation, panel participation, video or another format developed with EDIU.

EDIU reserves the right to reconsider, suspend or withdraw funding where an initiative does not proceed in accordance with the approved proposal, conditions of funding, or applicable University policies and requirements. Where concerns arise, EDIU will normally seek to work with organizers to address them first.

25. Applicant Confirmation