

Independent Experiential Learning (EXPL) Credit Application Form

What is special about experiential learning for academic credit?

The EXPL credit allows you to create your own independent study course that combines your dream job, or volunteer experience or other activity that you engage in outside the classroom with your academics.

Experiential learning helps students grow, not just intellectually, but also personally and professionally. When developing your proposal for you EXPL credit, you should be aware that there are six elements of experiential learning that must meet scholarly standards to be able to qualify for academic credit:

- Relevant context *that logically connects with an academic discipline*
- Intent to learn from the experience, *expressed in learning outcomes that target growth in academic knowledge and skills*
- Authentic, concrete experience *that's complex enough for you to develop a meaningful, intellectually demanding learning plan around it*
- Application of concepts *from one or more academic disciplines*
- Development of skills, knowledge, and values, *including academic knowledge, skills, and values*
- Structured reflection on the experience and the learning process, *including critical reflection that integrates academic knowledge*

Your faculty supervisor can help you develop these areas in Section 2 of this application form.

The application process of academic credit for an independent experiential learning project is governed by regulation [11.11.3 in the Academic Calendar](#). Students are recommended to familiarize themselves with it prior to application. In general, students should have third year academic standing, can apply for three credits per experience (to a maximum of six) and will be approved by their faculty supervisor and the Experiential Learning Committee.

This application form will walk students through all of the eligibility requirements.

Section 1 – Introduction

Overview	
Student name:	Submission date:
MTA email:	
Course Start Date:	Course End Date:
Program of Study:	Year of study:
Major/minor:	
<p>In 300 words or less, give an overview of the experiential learning opportunity you'd like to pursue and state why it will be valuable to your academic and personal development.</p>	

Partner Organization	
Name:	On-site Supervisor: Title:
Address of the partner organization:	Contact phone: Contact email:
Brief overview of the organization's mission and mandate.	
Do you have any previous contact with the host organization? Please explain.	
You must attach a letter of support from your host organization. Attached: <input type="checkbox"/>	

Section 2 – Academic Framework

Once you have the required details of your experience sorted out, you should work with your faculty supervisor to complete the following details that will give details on the six aspects of experiential learning mentioned above.

Faculty Supervisor	
Name:	Email:
Department:	Phone:
Learning Goals	
<p>What do you hope to gain from your proposed course, in terms of academic learning, personal growth, and professional development?</p> <p>Please list 5-6 learning outcomes that you hope to achieve through this experience. Each outcome should be clearly stated and include the activities you will do to achieve this learning and how you will prove that the learning took place.</p> <p><i>Example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Increase my understanding of globalizing forces that affect the refugee experience in Canada through my work with the Refugee Response Coalition. I will participate in group meetings and interview members of the committee. My results will be included in my final report.</i> 	

Academic Framework	
<p>Describe the study plan that will help you prepare for, complete, and interpret the experiential learning opportunity. List specific books, articles, or other resources you will consult (including videos, lectures, oral tradition, and so on), within an anticipated time frame. Also include any primary research you'll do, such as interviews, surveys, or direct observation.</p> <p><i>As a general guideline, it's recommended that your list of sources include at least five academic journal articles or the equivalent (for instance, one book and three articles, or four articles and one 90-minute documentary).</i></p>	
Structured Reflection	
<p>How will you incorporate reflection into your learning experience?</p>	
Assignments	
<p>How will you show what you have learned?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What kind of product or products will you create to document your learning? The assignment or assignments you complete do not have to be conventional items, such as an essay, book review. But they must demonstrate the use of analytical and critical thinking, showing that you have integrated your experiential learning with your academic learning. • What will the course grading scheme be? List all the assignments you will produce, along with the proportion of the total course grade each assignment will be worth. (E.g., 2,500-word essay worth 50%; annotated bibliography worth 25%; critical photo essay worth 25%) 	
Signature of Faculty Supervisor	
Signature	Date

Questions? Email rleaman@mta.ca (Rebecca Leaman, Manager of Experiential Learning).

Completed submissions can be made to Dr. Fiona Black (fblack@mta.ca), chair of the Senate Experiential Learning Committee.