# Creator+ pilot participation expectations

## Overview of Creator+ pilot

As part of the [LEARN improvements project](https://uwaterloo.ca/educational-technology-hub/projects-and-initiatives/learn-improvements-project#creator), Instructional Technologies Media Services (ITMS) in collaboration with the Teaching Innovation Incubator (TII), is investigating new features in the LEARN platform to enhance teaching and learning at the University of Waterloo. Among the features being investigated is [Creator+](https://uwaterloo.ca/teaching-incubator/projects/evaluating-learn-tools-creator), a LEARN tool that is designed to enhance student engagement through the integration of interactive course content into LEARN. With Creator+, instructors can weave in practice exercises, interactive bits, and video recordings directly into LEARN, making learning more dynamic and accessible to all students.

### Why Creator+

[Case studies](https://www.d2l.com/why-d2l/customers/south-university/) from other universities indicate that students and instructors alike benefit from the Creator+ tool. Instructors report spending less time on course development, while students report achieving higher grades on course assignments.

### Creator+ at Waterloo

The University has launched a pilot project to investigate the extent to which the integration of Creator+ in course development can enhance teaching and learning experiences for our students and instructors.

Waterloo faculty and staff are invited to participate in this pilot, testing the tool in their course development/offerings, and providing feedback to the project team.

## Overview of participation in the Creator+ pilot

1. Creator+ pilot commitment

Faculty and staff interested in joining the Creator+ pilot can expect to undertake a **two-term commitment**.

*First term*

* The first term of the pilot will encompass trialing the tool over a course development term. Participants will be asked to review LEARN training modules on Creator+ and familiarize themselves with the tool by trying it in their LEARN sandbox (for more information on the training, please see section 2 below).
* During this initial onboarding stage, participants in the pilot will have the opportunity to provide their feedback informally to the project team and, by the end of the trial period, determine whether they would like to continue participating in the pilot, adopting the tool in the upcoming (or future) term.
* Participants that decide not to continue with the pilot after the first term will be asked to participate in a final exit-interview.

*Second term*

* The second term of the Creator+ pilot will entail launching your LEARN course with the Creator+ features incorporated.
* Participants will be asked to formally evaluate their experience with the Creator+ tool by completing a short survey about the overall functionality and efficacy of the tool for enhancing student engagement.
* Participants will also be invited to participate in a short one-hour focus group session where they will be asked more specific questions about the Creator+ tool.
* The data collected in the survey and focus group sessions will be compiled into a final report and will help determine whether the University should move forward with procurement of the tool.

*Student participation during second term of pilot*

* Instructors using Creator+ in their Fall 2024 course are asked to encourage student participation in the evaluation of the tool by participating in a one-hour focus group session/experimental session regarding the usefulness of the tool in enhancing student engagement.
* The Teaching Innovation Incubator will manage all phases of student feedback solicitation. Instructors may only be asked to post a message in the relevant LEARN course on the Incubator’s behalf.
1. Creator+ training
* Pilot participants will have access to a comprehensive LEARN training course that will explain the tools features, provide tutorials on using the tool in LEARN, and review instructional best practices.
* Pilot participants will have access to additional digital support resources and step-by-step digital guides.
* Pilot participants will receive a LEARN sandbox where they can experiment with the Creator+ tool and its various features.
* Optional workshop sessions will be provided by ITMS. These sessions will combine pedagogical and technical information related to Creator+ focusing both on how to use the tool and instructional best practices.
1. Support throughout the pilot
* Support for instructional best practices will be provided by [Natalie Chow](https://uwaterloo.ca/centre-for-teaching-excellence/profiles/natalie-chow) (Centre for Teaching Excellence).
* Technical support requests for Creator+ can be directed to learnhelp@uwaterloo.ca.
* Questions or concerns regarding the pilot can be directed to tii@uwaterloo.ca.