

Open Educational Resource Policy

Faculty of Applied Sciences, Rajarata University of Sri Lanka

Background

The faculty is committed towards improving the learning experience of students by promoting the development and continuous improvement of courses and programs to provide students with the optimal learning experience. The academic staff use a wide variety of teaching materials to support teaching such as lecture notes, hand-outs, images, videos and films generated within the university. In addition, the staff also utilize resources available beyond those provided by the university, such as Open Educational Resources (OERs) to support teaching efforts.

OERs are digital resources that are used in the context of teaching and learning, which have been released by the copyright holder under an open license to be used or repurposed by others. Although PDF versions of textbooks and software protected by copyright are widely circulate without the permission of the publisher/author, they should not be considered OERs.

OER use refers to using an OER in its original format for its intended use.

OER repurposing refers to using an OER in its original or modified form for a purpose other than its original intended use.

Policy declaration

This policy outlines the position of the Faculty of Applied Sciences on the use of Open Educational Resources (OER) and provides guidelines for their use in pedagogy.

The faculty recognizes the value of OERs as a resource to enhance the teaching and learning experience in the faculty and hence encourages the responsible use of OER by teaching staff and students.

The purpose and scope of the policy is also to ensure that usage of OERs is consistent with fundamental values of academic integrity, Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and accepted social norms.

Scope of policy

This policy applies to all academic staff and students of the Faculty of Applied Sciences (FOAS) of Rajarata University of Sri Lanka.

All types of OERs used in learning in electronic or physical format.

Policy Objectives

Develop awareness about the concept and practices related to OER among all staff and students

Build capacity and awareness regarding the proper use of OERs among staff and students

Establish an institutional repository for OERs.

Policy statements, FAOS, RUSL

The University encourages staff and students to use OERs to enhance the quality of the teaching and learning experience.

Students and staff should use OERs within the scope defined by the license of the OER. Users should be aware of the scope of the different Creative Commons Licenses (<https://creativecommons.org>).

The course instructor is responsible for identifying appropriate OERs.

OERs should be consistent with the values of the University and the Faculty of Applied Sciences and civil society in general, which includes cultural sensitivity, inclusiveness, complying with Intellectual Property Rights and publication ethics.

When using OERs, instructors should be mindful of accessibility of OERs to students. All students may not or have limited internet access and computing facilities.

The OERs that will be utilized during instruction should be provided in the course outline given out to students at the beginning of the course.

OERs should always be supplementary teaching/learning material and should not be used as a substitute for lectures/teaching activities.

Students reserve the right to raise concerns with regards to the appropriateness and accessibility of OERs. These concerns can be raised in the student evaluation forms provided to the students at the end of the course. If the concerns require immediate action, students may address them to the Head of the respective department through which the course is offered or to the Dean of the FAOS.

The FOAS identifies the Library of the faculty and the repository for OERs used by staff and students of the faculty. FOAS encourages academic staff members to submit a list of OERs used by them during each semester to the Librarian of the FOAS to facilitate this effort.

Liability

All OER materials in the institutional repository will carry a disclaimer indicating that the material is for educational purposes only and that the FOAS, RUSL absolves itself of any practical misuse of OER material or their content.