

Open Educational Resources Policy of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences

1. About open educational resources (OER)

Open Educational Resources (OER) make a significant contribution to improving the quality of studying and teaching by allowing students and teachers to have unrestricted access to freely available materials which they can use under clear legal conditions, thus expanding the pool of educational resources and allowing teachers to actively contribute by creating open educational resources themselves.

This policy

- describes the position of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences in the field of Open Educational Resources.
- provides instructions for the creation of Open Educational Resources.
- refers to specific support services for users and creators of open educational resources.

Open Educational Resources are teaching/learning materials that are freely accessible with the help of an appropriate licensing system. Depending on the license selected by the creator, OER can be reproduced, used, modified, combined, and/or distributed without having to obtain permission from the creator. OER can take many different forms and are not limited to digital formats. Possible forms of OER include: images, texts, presentations, worksheets, test tasks, scripts, books, videos, music, and entire online courses.

The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences views Open Educational Resources as an important part of improving the quality of its curriculum. Open Educational Resources:

- enable free access to education,
- promote the use and exchange of teaching/learning materials,
- expand the didactic possibilities,
- support the development of skills (among teachers and students),
- increase the visibility of teaching performance,
- are most often very current and more readily available online,
- can be flexibly adapted and reused and
- allow clear (subsequent) use under copyright law.

2. The position of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences (CUAS) on Open Educational Resources (OER)

1. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences recommends that its staff and students use, create and publish OER that are relevant to academic teaching and meet academic standards.
2. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences supports its staff and students in the use, creation, and publication of OER in the form of consulting services, qualification measures (including [the OER certification Moodle course](#)), and the provision of information materials.
3. When using, creating, and publishing OER, staff and students are responsible for observing the legal framework and complying with the terms of use associated with the respective licenses.
4. The use, creation, and publication of OER are always carried out with respect for the reputation and values of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences.
5. Employees of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences are generally permitted to use, create, and publish OER. In justified cases, heads of degree programs may restrict the use, creation, and publication of OER.
6. If an OER is not compatible with this policy or with other guidelines of the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences, the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences reserves the right to delete the OER or to request their deletion from external repositories.

3. Instructions: Creation of Open Educational Resources

1. Faculty, staff and students are recommended to license created OER using a Creative Commons license. UNESCO¹ expressly recommends that OER materials are made available openly (i.e., accessible and developable for everyone as CC BY or CC BY SA license). Other licenses should only be used if necessary due to the inclusion of appropriately licensed third-party materials.
2. The licensing of OER should include the following components: Naming the license incl. version and naming the authorship. Example: CC BY 4.0 *author*.
3. Videos declared as OER can be made public via YouTube under a CC BY 4.0 license. The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences is currently developing appropriate recommendations and strategies for the long-term storage and availability of OER in its own or external repositories and applications in consultation with the Austria-wide OER initiative.
4. Other digital OER should be published by staff or students in suitable repositories operated by third parties and/or on publicly accessible websites until the Carinthia University of Applied Sciences has its own OER repository.
5. It is recommended to add metadata to OER when publishing.
6. OER creators are advised to collect as much data as possible on the use of their OER.

4. Support services for users and creators

The Carinthia University of Applied Sciences offers the following support services to staff and students who wish to use, create, and/or publish OER:

- an OER qualification course of 25 hours, held partly in person and partly online, which is offered at least once a year and which can be taken free of charge by faculty, staff and students (subject to availability) ([link to the corresponding Moodle course](#));
- Individual OER consultations for faculty and staff offered by the Center for Teaching and Learning;
- Electronic and printed information material on the use, creation, and publication of OER.

Interested employees should contact the Center for Teaching and Learning (didaktikzentrum@fh-kaernten.at).

This is a translation of the [Open Educational Resources Policy der Fachhochschule Kärnten](#) which is based on adaptation of the [Open Educational Resources Policy of the University of Edinburgh](#), the [German-language adaptation of the policy of the University of Graz](#) and the concept "[OER Certification at Austrian Universities](#)" of the working group "Open Educational Resources" of the association Forum Neue Medien in der Lehre Austria.



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¹ <https://www.unesco.at/bildung/bildung-2030/artikel/article/unesco-empfehlung-zu-open-educational-resources-oer>