

2017 TransCanada SoTL Mentorship Grants

The Institute for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at MRU is pleased to sponsor a call for applications for the 2017 TransCanada SoTL Mentorship Grants. These grants are designated to support the sharing of good SoTL practices among MRU faculty through a research partnership that involves meaningful mentoring. Applications will be accepted from teams of researchers involving at least one published SoTL researcher and at least one SoTL newcomer. Additionally, the application will describe the SoTL mentorship in detail, including a timeline for this skill training.

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning is inclusive and unified by its potential to have impact in the classroom and to deepen our understanding of student learning, but diverse in discipline, theory, methodology, and method. Successful projects are anticipated to propose systematic, evidence-based study of teaching and learning and meet principles of good practice in SoTL (Felten, 2013):

- focused on student learning in higher education,
- situated in the existing literature and grounded in a teaching-learning context,
- methodologically sound,
- conducted in partnership with students, and
- appropriately public.

Proposals will include:

- Research question,
- literature review,
- planned methodology and data collection,
- dissemination plans,
- investigator CVs.
- a budget up to a maximum of \$5,000 for a single year,
- Mentorship plan, outlining the expectations of the partnership and how will these be met.

Projects can include co-investigators beyond MRU, but the mentor (the principal investigator) must be a fulltime MRU faculty member, and the mentee must be a fulltime or sessional MRU faculty member. Paid research assistants must be MRU students (unless the project is co-funded).

For additional information please contact the Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning through Anne Johnston at ajohnston@mtroyal.ca. These grants are funded in their entirety by the TransCanada Research Program for Learning Innovation and Collaborative Inquiry.

Proposal Evaluation Criteria

Project proposals will be evaluated based on 4 main criteria: quality of the project; quality of the mentoring experience; likelihood of impact beyond the research group; and expertise of the research group, as demonstrated by the submitted application and CVs.

Project Quality (30% of overall evaluation):

- explicit focus on teaching and learning in post-secondary education,
- clear goals and rationale supported by literature review,
- quality and appropriateness of the methodology,

- suitability of proposed strategies and timelines,
- appropriateness and justification of proposed budget.

Mentoring Quality (30% of overall evaluation):

- mentoring plan includes specific SoTL skills to be developed by the mentee with an associated timeline,
- clear goals and rationale for SoTL training with links to the research project,
- potential impact of expertise development on the MRU SoTL community.

Likelihood of impact (30% of overall evaluation):

- potential for impact on teaching and learning,
- potential to contribute to existing literature,
- training, mentoring, and dissemination opportunities provided to students,
- dissemination plan, including venues for appropriate dissemination within and beyond Mount Royal.

Expertise (10% of overall evaluation):

- quality and significance of previous and current scholarship activity within the research group, particularly related to teaching and learning,
- suitability of the research team including evidence of methodological expertise and capability to undertake the project.

All proposals will be required to be rated “acceptable” by the Institute’s Scholarship Review Committee on each of the 4 main criteria, in order to be funded.

If more applications are received than can be fully accommodated, then applications may be ranked according to the weighting scheme above and/or partial funding may be awarded.

If you are uncertain whether or not your proposed project meets the criteria, please contact the Director to explore possibilities.

How to Apply

Applications for the 2017 TransCanada SoTL Mentorship Grants are due **March 16, 2017**. To apply, Principal Investigators must use the Office of Research Services web-based application through ROMEO (see <https://mtroyal.ca/Research/romeo>). The information required for the grant application is listed in the ROMEO system.

Funding and Eligible expenses

All proposed budgets must fall within the following constraints:

- acceptable research expenses for the conduct of the research (data collection and analysis) include undergraduate student research assistant compensation, transcription, photocopying, etc. as well as travel between institutions for multi-institutional collaborations.

- dissemination expenses should not account for more than \$1500 per researcher, and \$3000 of the total budget.

If the project budget exceeds the grant maximum, additional funding sources must be identified for all amounts exceeding the grant maximum.

Note that while **ethics clearance** is not required before an application is approved, funds cannot be released until clearance has been given by the Mount Royal University Human Research Ethics Board. For multi-institutional studies, the PI is responsible to ensure that appropriate ethical clearance is also attained at all applicable institutions.

Reporting

All successful grant applicants will be required to submit quarterly reports on the SoTL mentorship, indicating progress with respect to the proposed training timeline. They will also disseminate their findings at least once in an on-campus forum such as a departmental colloquium or an Institute-organized presentation.

Successful applicants will be required to report to the Institute on their projects, in a format of their choosing (for example, a paper, presentation, or poster), and notify the Institute yearly of all dissemination activities related to the project.

A final report will be required of all projects by May 15, 2018. This final project report will include a description of progress made in data collection, analysis, etc. any changes to the proposed research or budget, and the new SoTL skills developed and demonstrated by the mentee.

Faculty will not be considered for subsequent research grants unless their reporting obligations with the Institute and the Office of Research Scholarship and Community Engagement are up to date.