

2017 TransCanada SoTL Student Research 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 Undergraduate Student Research Assistant (USRA) and Undergraduate Student Research Partner (USRP) Grants. These grants are designated to pay salary and benefits for MRU undergraduate students engaged in SoTL projects with faculty supervisors. Applications will be accepted from faculty with demonstrated SoTL experience, such as past publication(s) in SoTL or related fields.

Applications will include

- brief description of the project, including a description of how the student researcher will benefit the project
- list of duties
- hourly rate (may vary depending on duties and student researcher experience), plus benefits
- required qualifications for student researcher, such as completed courses or disciplinary expertise
- training plan, identifying the training that the faculty member will provide to support the student researcher in their duties
- supervisory plan, identifying the frequency of meetings with references to the training plan and list of duties

There will be up to 10 USRA grants awarded this cycle, at a value of \$1000 each. The USRP grants will be valued at \$3000, and a maximum of 3 will be awarded this cycle. The larger value of the USRP grants reflect a higher level responsibility and time commitment from the student research partner. It is expected that a USRP contribute significantly to most aspects of a project, including data collection, analysis, and article preparation.

The award holder (the principal investigator) will participate in a Community of Practice on Mentoring Undergraduate Student Researchers, which will meet approximately once per month during the 2017-2018 academic year.

Projects can include co-investigators beyond MRU, but the award holder (the principal investigator) must be a fulltime MRU faculty member, and the student researcher supported by this grant must be a MRU student.

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 the following criteria:

Project Quality (20% 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,
- description of potential impact on project from student researcher.

List of Duties (20% of overall evaluation):

- duties are reasonable and achievable in the number of hours paid,
- duties will provide a clear benefit to the project, and result in skill acquisition by the student researcher.

Training Plan (20% of overall evaluation):

- training plan includes general research and specific SoTL skills to be developed by the student researcher with an associated timeline,
- clear goals and rationale for SoTL training with links to the research project.

Supervisory Plan (20% of overall evaluation):

- supervisory plan clearly indicates the frequency of meetings between the PI and student researcher, and references the training plan and list of duties

Expertise (20% of overall evaluation):

- quality and significance of previous and current scholarship activity within the research group, particularly related to teaching and learning, as evidenced by their CVs,
- 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 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.

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 Student Research 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

These grants are designated to pay salary and benefits for MRU undergraduate students engaged in SoTL projects with faculty supervisors. If the student researcher hours exceeds the maximum payable by the grant, 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 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, new SoTL skills developed and demonstrated by the student researcher, and a 750-word report written by the student researcher describing the benefits of their research experience and the impact on their professional development.

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