2020 Special Topics Grants ($1500-$3000)

We are excited to announce these new grants representing partnerships across Mount Royal University (MRU), designed to support scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) research in specific areas of enquiry in the form of $1500 - $3000 seed grants intended to inspire scholarship in the following areas.

SoTL in Community Service Learning
In collaboration with the Office of Teaching and Learning, the Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning is accepting proposals for SoTL related to Community Service Learning (CSL) in courses and programs at MRU. Such scholarship is aimed at understanding and assessing the impact of CSL on student learning and the communities who welcome our students.

SoTL in Indigenization
In collaboration with the Office of Academic Indigenization, the Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning is accepting proposals for SoTL related to Indigenization processes within classrooms or curriculum at MRU, understanding and furthering MRU’s efforts in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Call to Action and MRU’s Indigenous Strategic Plan.

SoTL in Riddell Active Learning Spaces
In collaboration with the Library and the Academic Development Centre, the Institute for SoTL is accepting proposals for SoTL related to the utilization of the unique active learning spaces within the Riddell Library and Learning Centre to support innovative teaching.

CRITERIA for Special Topics Grants:
Applications for the 2020 Special Topics Grants are due November 18, 2019. To apply, Principal Investigators must use the Office of Research, Scholarship and Community Engagement web-based application through ROMEO (see https://mtroyal.ca/Research/romeo). The information required for the grant application is listed in the ROMEO system.

The Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning supports scholarship of teaching and learning (SoTL) projects that investigate innovative pedagogies, student learning, or other aspects of teaching and learning in a single class or related courses. These Special Topics grants are intended to inspire scholarship in the following areas: SoTL in Community Service Learning, SoTL in Indigenization, and SoTL in Riddell Active Learning.
Spaces. Each require a research proposal including literature review, research question, methodology, data collection, and dissemination plans, as well as a description of how your project relates to the special topic area. (If your proposed work does not align well with this structure, please include a clear statement of theory and methods that are aligned with the proposed project.)

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. Eligible projects must propose systematic, evidence-based study of teaching and learning and meet principles of good practice in SoTL (Feltin, 2013), which means they are:

* 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.

**Community Service Learning Projects** will investigate, through a SoTL lens, the development and/or impact of Community Service Learning (CSL) pedagogies. CSL is a high impact teaching practice that offers students the opportunity for meaningful community engagement through course based, hands-on experience connecting community service to academic learning and critical reflection.

**Indigenization SoTL Projects** will investigate, through a SoTL lens, the development process and/or impact of Indigenized curriculum content or course pedagogy in response to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission’s (TRC) Call to Action in education and MRU’s commitment to the goals in the Indigenous Strategic Plan.

**Riddell Active Learning Spaces Projects** will investigate, through a SoTL lens, the development and/or impact of teaching and learning within one of the Riddell Library and Learning Centre’s active learning spaces, specifically, the Active Learning Classroom, the Visualization Classroom or Ideas Lounge, the Maker Studio, the Experience Lab, the immersion Studio, the Audio Production Rooms, or the Media Production Rooms.

Special Topics Grants are expected to be in the range of $1,500 - $3,000 for a single year. A full-time MRU faculty member must be the principal investigator on the project and paid research assistants must be MRU students.

For additional information please contact the Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning through Anne Johnston at ajohnston@mtroyal.ca.
Proposal Evaluation Criteria:
Project proposals will be evaluated based on 3 main criteria: quality of the project; likelihood of impact beyond the research group; and expertise of the research group, as demonstrated by the submitted application and CVs.

Project Quality (60% 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.

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, 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 3 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 Academic Director, Dr. Michelle Yeo, to explore possibilities.

Funding and Eligible Expenses:
All proposed budgets must fall within the following constraints:
- Acceptable expenses include research (data collection and analysis) undergraduate student research assistant compensation, transcription, photocopying, etc. as well as travel between institutions for multi-institutional collaborations. Note that research expenses do NOT include the purchase or development of teaching resources or equipment e.g. classroom technology, which must be secured elsewhere.
- Dissemination expenses to a maximum of 40% of the total grant requested.
If applications exceed the budgeted amount for any given year or if the proposed budget is not adequately justified, partial funding may be awarded.

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.

Reporting:
All successful grant applicants are required to complete an annual report, due on May 15th during the approved project term, which includes notification of all dissemination activities, a description of progress made in data collection, analysis, etc. with requests for any change to the proposed research or budget. An annual report also serves as a funding extension request for the following year if required. Annual Reporting Forms will be forwarded by the Institute for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning.

A final report is also required of all projects at the end of the proposed research timeline and is required to be completed in the ROMEO system.

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