Funding to support University of Guelph graduate students conducting research on teaching and learning

The Graduate Student Teaching Development Program (TDP) in Open Learning and Educational Support recognizes the importance of cultivating a culture of scholarship in teaching and learning in post-secondary education and supporting graduate student teaching development. To these ends, the TDP offers funding for graduate students to propose, initiate, research and disseminate the results of a 3-semester research project that investigates an aspect of teaching and learning in the post-secondary context.

Eligibility
Any enrolled University of Guelph graduate student.

Funding: $500
Approved costs associated with research can be submitted and refunded during project. The balance of the funding will be paid after the presentation or publication of results of the research project.

Up to two projects will be funded each academic year.

Application
A complete application consists of no more than three pages (including references) outlining the proposed project, including:

1. A central research question which clearly outlines the scope and specifically identifies the focus of the proposed project (see example questions below)
2. Proposed method(s)
3. Timelines
    a. This project
    b. Your own graduate studies (answering the question if you can complete this study during your time at the University)
4. Deliverables
5. How the proposed project advances the field of scholarship on teaching and learning in your discipline and / or proposed topic

If applicable:
6. Needs and additional support

Deadline
April 30th (or the final weekday in April if the 30th falls on a weekend).

Applications to be reviewed and funding awarded in May. All submissions will receive feedback from the selection committee.

Open Learning and Educational Support

Project or topic examples
- Assessment of a classroom teaching method or learning object.
  > *Example research question:* Does the implementation of the "Jigsaw" active learning technique in a third-year human anatomy lab improve student comprehension of the topic of hands and feet?

- Writing a literature review on a disciplinary teaching practice.
  > *Example research question:* What does the current literature in engineering education show as best practices for active learning in the undergraduate engineering classroom?

- Interviewing teaching assistants or faculty members regarding an issue related to teaching and learning in higher education.
  > *Example research question:* How do experienced Graduate Teaching Assistants (defined as TAs with greater than 4 semesters experience) in an introductory psychology course conceptualize their professional relationship to undergraduate students and how do these, if at all, differ from first-time GTAs?

- Investigate students' perception of the use of a technology in the classroom.
  > *Example research question:* Versus providing only textual summative feedback, do students in a second year history course perceive a difference in the quality of feedback when summative feedback is provided via audio comments using the iOS application *iAnnotate*?

Proposal evaluation criteria

Submitted proposals will be evaluated using the criteria described below. Questions listed under the criteria are examples of the kind of questions the selection committee would use to evaluate proposals. While the questions are binary (e.g. yes/no) in nature, the evaluation will address to what degree the proposals fit the criteria.

1. Scope & Feasibility (50%)
   - Does the central question clearly outline the scope and specifically identify the focus of the proposed project?
   - Is the proposed project of appropriate scope to be completed in 12 months?
   - If necessary, does the researcher have access to additional support (e.g. funding, participants, mentors) required to complete the project?
   - Will the graduate student most likely be enrolled in the upcoming academic year?
2. Innovation & Creativity (25%)
   - Does the proposed research help answer an interesting, important or unique question in the field?
   - Would the results of this project improve the quality of student learning?
   - Is the proposed project elegant in its design, implementation, or methods?
3. Scholarship (25%)
   - Is the proposed project based on an understood gap in the literature?
   - Is the methodology sound?

Selection committee membership

5 members:
- Two educational developers, including the TDP coordinator
- Two graduate students
- One faculty member

Conditions

Graduate student researcher agrees, upon accepting funding that:
- Results of each project will be presented or submitted for publication within 12 months of award.
  - Presentations will be at a conference explicitly related to teaching and learning in higher education.
  - Publications will be in a peer-reviewed journal.
- Support from Open Learning and Educational Support will be acknowledged.

Note that when applicable, research projects will need to secure research ethics approval from the University's research ethics board.

Further questions?

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