Mokakiiks Centre for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Marshall Family Foundation SoTL Literacy Grant

Through a generous donation from the Marshall Family Foundation, the Mokakiiks Centre for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning supports SoTL projects that investigate literacy learning and teaching practice across the spectrum of education.

Applications for the Marshall Family Foundation SoTL Literacy Grants are due **November 1** for the Fall call or **May 1** for the Spring call. 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.

Criteria

The Marshall Family Foundation Grant 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. This particular grant from the Marshall Family Foundation supports SoTL research specifically in literacy education, whether in post-secondary, K-12, or early learning settings and/or literacy issues pertaining to specific groups of learners.

Application

To apply for the grant, a complete research proposal including literature review, research question, methodology, data collection, data analysis, and dissemination plans, as well as a description of how your project relates to literacy needs to be uploaded to ROMEO. ***You are encouraged to upload your proposal as a separate attachment for readability.*** (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.)

Marshall Family Foundation SoTL Literacy Grants may be for a maximum of $9000. A full-time MRU faculty member must be the principal investigator on the project and paid research assistants must be MRU students (unless the project is co-funded).

Please submit a clear budget (a summary table is helpful) and rationale as a separate document.

For additional information please contact the Mokakiiks Centre for Scholarship of Teaching and Learning at mokakiiks@mtroyal.ca.

Evaluation

Project proposals will be evaluated based on three main criteria: quality of the project

(including budget rationale); likelihood of impact beyond the research group; and experience of the research group, as demonstrated by the submitted application and CVs.

Project Quality (60% of overall evaluation):

- alignment with the Marshall Family Foundation SoTL Literacy grant criteria,
- explicit focus on teaching and learning in post-secondary education,
- clear goals and rationale supported by literature review,
- quality, rationale, and specificity of the methodology (e.g., data collection, data analysis),
- alignment between the focus, the goals and the methodology,
- feasibility of proposed research strategies and timelines,
- detailed justification of proposed budget as it relates to the project with a clear breakdown of costs. For example, for research assistants, include an outline of topics/tasks with hour allocation.

Likelihood of impact beyond the research group (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.

Experience of the research group (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,
- if this is a new area of scholarship, provide a clear plan to develop the experience and expertise to successfully undertake the project.

Please note that given the number of applications in recent rounds, the process has become more competitive. Researchers with strong applications who have not received funding from the Mokakiiks Centre for SoTL in the last 2 years will be given priority over those who have.

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.
- Expenses related to hardware (e.g., laptop, recording equipment) need to be thoroughly justified including why these resources cannot be secured elsewhere (e.g., rented from

library), how they will be used, and what happens to them after the research project is complete.
- Dissemination expenses to a maximum of 40% of the total grant requested. Please note that grant holders may apply for the Mokakiiks Undergraduate Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Dissemination Grant to permit student research assistants to attend conferences they are presenting at.
- 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. For multi-institutional studies, the PI is responsible to ensure that appropriate ethical clearance is also attained at all applicable institutions.

Please note that this grant is intended for research on teaching and learning, rather than curriculum development (though we recognize the outputs of this research may inform future curriculum development work).

Reporting
All successful grant applicants are required to complete an **annual report**, due on **November 15th** (grant given in the Fall call) and **May 15th** (grant given in the Spring call) 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.

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 (e.g., final/annual report) are up to date.