

## New Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) Scholars Program 2024 Cohort

### Call for Applications

#### What is SoTL?

The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) is a cross-disciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary research field that continues to grow in relevance with the increasing focus on evidence-based pedagogy within post-secondary education around the world. SoTL scholars explore research questions about teaching or learning at the post-secondary level within and across academic disciplines. Teaching and learning research projects seek to better understand teaching techniques, technologies, learning processes, relationships, environments, and more. Research questions can be situated within the context of disciplinary knowledge or address broader issues relevant across the academy.

The work of SoTL scholars benefits from, and informs, other research fields including K12 educational research, discipline-based educational research, scholarship of educational development, scholarship of educational leadership.

#### How is SoTL evaluated as scholarship/research?

As a scholarly field, SoTL demonstrates to the characteristics of academic and scholarly work (Glassick, Huber, & Maeroff, 1997):

- clear goals,
- adequate preparation,
- appropriate methods,
- significant results,
- effective presentation, and
- reflective critique.

Felten (2013) has provided additional guidance on what constitutes 'Good Practice in SoTL':

1. inquiry into student learning,
2. grounded in context,
3. methodologically sound,
4. conducted in partnership with students, and
5. appropriately public.

More recently, Hamilton and McCollum (2023) have proposed a sixth principle for the shift toward 'Great Practice in SoTL':

6. explicit identification of one's SoTL philosophical, ontological, and epistemological lenses.



New SoTL scholars can come from all disciplines. Some newcomers are already established scholars within their disciplinary research, while others are scholars-in-training. Both groups bring with them research methodologies, established frameworks for knowledge formation and validation, and other scholarly traditions. Within Canada, and internationally, the SoTL community navigates these varied approaches to research through constructive dialogue and peer review processes in the shared pursuit of knowledge and its application for excellence in learning and teaching.

### TRU's New SoTL Scholars Program

In alignment with both the educational and the research mandates of the university, CELT is excited to support faculty in expanding their expertise in research methods and methodologies to systematically investigate teaching and learning. Training and support will be provided throughout the year-and-a-half long program.

Participants in the program will be offered:

- introductions to the SoTL literature,
- support relevant to their proposed project,
- mentoring for project design, data collection, data analysis, and publishing,
- \$2500\* research grant.

Faculty will commit to attending four 2-hour meetings, two all-day meetings, and one multi-day on-campus retreat (May 2024). Between these meetings, faculty will complete assigned tasks to advance their project from inception to dissemination.

### Additional Funding for New SoTL Scholars

Faculty that successfully complete the program may apply for a SoTL Dissemination Travel Award from CELT. This fund is intended to support faculty with presentation of their results at a relevant SoTL or disciplinary conference. Recipients will be expected to also present their SoTL at TRU.

Faculty will be encouraged to co-present their SoTL findings with their student research assistants. Additional funding is available at TRU for students to support their research dissemination activities.

### How to apply?

Faculty in on-going bipartite & tripartite positions, or LTC, are invited to submit a completed [application form](https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/HGFR5NC) (https://www.surveymonkey.ca/r/HGFR5NC). Applications are due by **Monday, January 22**. Applicants will be informed of the status of their application by February 5. For more information, contact Dr. Diane Janes (CELT Coordinators) or Dr. Brett McCollum (Director of CELT).

### References:

Glassick, C. E., Huber, M. T., & Maeroff, G. I. (1997). *Scholarship assessed: Evaluation of the professoriate*. John Wiley & Sons.



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Hamilton, M., McCollum, B. (2023, November 8). *I take the 6th - Adding one more Principle to Felten's Principles of Good Practice in SoTL*. ISSOTL 2023, Utrecht, Netherlands. <https://issotl.com/issotl23/>

\* Details on what expenses are eligible for this grant are provided in the SoTL Grant Funding Guidelines document.