Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

Call for proposals 2020

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) refers to the systematic study and reflection on teaching and student learning with the goal to inform one's own teaching practice and to make the results public. The data you get from your SoTL-project provides insight in student learning and allows you to make decisions concerning your teaching evidence-based. The SoTL-approach also allows you to document the development of your course design.

For several years, linking teaching and research has been on the agenda and in the calls of well renowned conferences such as the Annual Meeting of the Academy of Management. The data you gather in your project can be used as basis for conference presentations, but also for publications in journals, i.e. journals specialized on SoTL as well as disciplinary journals with a section on teaching and learning.

Extensive changes to course designs are suitable for an additional evaluation and analysis in a SoTL-project. The introduction of new courses, for example courses following a blended learning approach, also requires larger modifications that will benefit from an evidence-based approach to teaching. If you are teaching parallel courses and rely on different methodologies this allows for a systematic comparison. Or you experiment with a specific course design that you would like to evaluate and/or adapt. All these contexts provide possibilities for SoTL-projects.

1 Goals

In order to foster a scholarly approach to teaching at WU, this call supports projects that aim at further developing one's own teaching relying on evidence that is thoroughly analyzed. The outcomes of the projects are published and shared within and outside WU.

There are two main objectives:

Gaining empirical insight and results in pedagogy and didactics in order to foster the enhancement of one's own teaching.

These results should also be made available for other teachers, i.e. the transfer of the results within WU and within relevant communities is another important goal.

2 Areas of focus

- Field reports of innovations in didactics: field report of didactic innovations or experiments put into practice, theoretical grounding of the process, extensive and thorough empirical evaluation
  e.g.: Testing and evaluating new teaching or assessment designs, comparing different teaching or assessment methods

- Didactic research: getting a better understanding of phenomena related to teaching or student learning
  e.g. Empirical research on teaching and learning approaches; researching which methods are apt to reach certain learning outcomes

- Research on student learning: Empirical research about students
  e.g. their perception of the effectiveness of different teaching methods and the progress of students in the subject

3 Funding Criteria

- **The project focuses on a research question related to teaching/learning at WU and includes a brief literature review**
  The project focusses on a clear research question aimed at the applicant's own teaching and/or student learning. The project context is explained in the proposal and relevant literature is referred to. The proposal states clearly, how the project can contribute to extant research in SoTL.

- **Design and method are appropriate to achieve the objectives**
  The research design is described clearly. The proposal explains why the chosen method is appropriate to answer the research question and to achieve the objectives. The proposal states how data is collected and analyzed.

- **Conclusions for one's own teaching or for teaching at WU**
  The project outcomes are relevant for teachers at WU and there are possibilities to transfer the results to other contexts.

- **Description of the intended form of dissemination**
  The proposal states how the results will be shared and disseminated to the relevant communities in- and outside of WU. The project outcomes can be presented in WU's Future Learning Now!-Newsletter, the Teaching & Learning Academy, at "Treffpunkt Lehre" but also at departmental level meetings. Journal publications or presentations at conferences are desirable but not a precondition for a first-time funding.

4 Eligibility

Applicants

- All faculty members with teaching activities at WU for the duration of the project are eligible to apply for this grant.

- Individuals or groups can submit an application for the SoTL Grant. In case of a group application, a group representative has to be designated.

Duration

- Funding will be provided primarily for the calendar year 2020.

- Applications may also be submitted for projects already running at the time of application; however, the risk of liability for all expenses already incurred is borne by the researcher in charge of the project.
- Application deadline is **January 12, 2020**.

What is applicable for funding?

- Maximum funding for projects is **EUR 5.000,–**
  - independent contractor agreements
  - Material expenses (with the exception of basic equipment such as computers, expenses for literature, telephone, stationery)
  - Travel expenses

Required documents

- The submission has to meet the standards specified in section 5 of this document. Submissions that do not meet the formal criteria will not be considered.

Selection process

- Two reviews of external experts will be collected. Based on these reviews, the steering committee will decide if the project will be funded.

Project conclusion

- Short project report (1 or 2 pages)
- Funded projects will be presented in the Teaching & Learning Academy (https://learn.wu.ac.at/tlac) and in the Future Learning Now!-Newsletter upon conclusion.

5 Proposal Format

The following documents are required for all submissions:

- The completed **application form** (in digital format)

- A detailed **description of the project** on no more than **five pages** (without attachments, .pdf or .doc format), structured as follows:
  - Abstract (150 words)
  - Objectives
  - Short overview of literature available on the subject
  - Design and Method
  - Expected Outcomes
  - Impact on Teaching and Learning at WU
  - Planned Publication format (publication and/or presentation at conferences, in journals or presentation within WU)

- Schedule and budget plan
  - Schedule: The project has to be feasible primarily in the course of one year.

- Guidelines for hourly pay: When calculating costs for project activities, project heads should keep the following guidelines for hourly pay (for work performed on the basis of an independent contractor agreement) in mind: Category 1 –unskilled work: EUR 10,- to 15,-; Category 2 –skilled work: EUR 20,- to 25,- . A written statement of justification must be provided for any wages paid that are above or below these guidelines.
    - The researcher's own work is not subject to funding.
  - CV and list of publications

6 Submission Process

The deadline for submissions is **January 12, 2020.** The documents can be sent to lehrenundlernen@wu.ac.at.

7 Questions regarding the proposal submission process

Information on SoTL, running SoTL projects at WU and relevant journals can be found on the homepage.

Please refer to Johanna Warm (Johanna.warm@wu.ac.at) for any questions.