

Call for proposals

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning 2024

Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) refers to the systematic study and reflection on teaching and student learning (cf. [Huber 2014, S. 21](#)). As a teacher, you can use the knowledge gained from systematically dealing with your teaching to develop your course further. You get differentiated data to document the development of teaching comprehensively and can use the results as a basis for an internal WU publication or articles in academic journals.

For several years, linking teaching and research has been on the agenda and in the calls of well-renowned conferences. SoTL is also a way of making your own teaching achievements more visible and the results accessible to other teachers.

In the last years, the switch between phases of distance teaching, classroom teaching, and their intermediate stages has changed teaching and learning in several aspects. The question of how digital innovations can be meaningfully combined with analog elements of in-class teaching will continue to be a current topic in higher education. Another important aspect in the future will be the question of how applications that operate based on artificial intelligence influence teaching and the learning of students.

There are numerous starting points in other areas to examine them following a "Scholarship of Teaching and Learning" approach: Extensive changes to course designs are suitable for an additional evaluation and analysis in a SoTL-project. The introduction of new courses also requires modifications that will benefit from an evidence-based approach to teaching.

If you are teaching parallel courses and rely on different didactic methods this allows for systematic comparison. Or you experiment with a specific course design that you would like to evaluate and/or adapt.

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 and sharing the outcomes of the projects within and outside WU.

The main objectives are:

- Gaining empirical insight and results in pedagogy and didactics in order to foster the enhancement of one's own teaching.
- Set goals and specific measures to make one's own teaching more effective.
- 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

- Didactic research: getting a better understanding of phenomena related to teaching or student learning
e.g. Empirical research on (digital) 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
- 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 (digital) teaching or assessment designs, comparing different (digital) teaching or assessment methods

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 for the **calendar year 2024**.
 - 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 **September 27, 2023**.

What is applicable for funding?

- Maximum funding for WU internal projects is **EUR 5,000,-**
 - independent contractor agreements for individual assistance services ("Werkverträge", no project positions)
 - 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 presentation of results (e.g. internal formats at WU)
- Schedule and budget plan
 - Schedule: The project has to be feasible primarily in the course of one year.
 - The researcher's own work is not subject to funding.
 - Guidelines for hourly pay: 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.

Please note that the hourly rates listed serve as a guideline for the cost calculation. Compensation for a service conducted by the independent contractor is paid as lump-sum payment (see WU internal [guideline for differentiating between employment contracts \(dienstvertrag\)/freelance service contracts \(freier dienstvertrag\)/independent contractor agreements \(werkvertrag\)](#))

- CV and list of publications

6 Submission Process

The deadline for submissions is **September 27, 2023**. 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 Claudia Böck (claudia.boeck@wu.ac.at) for any questions.