TEACHING ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP SEED GRANTS
(Scholarship of Teaching and Learning)

Guidelines for Grants in 2016: Round 2

Curtin is renowned for high quality teachers who incorporate innovative learning and teaching practices to enhance the student learning experience. This has been evidenced through our success in attracting national learning and teaching awards, grants and fellowships. The University values this contribution and has committed funding to continue to build capacity in our teaching staff and further enhance the excellence of our learning and teaching. Seed grants will be available to enhance staff engagement in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL) through the support of high quality learning and teaching projects that will support teaching staff in exploring, testing, practicing and communicating improved pedagogies, learning processes, curricula, policies and learning materials.

Teaching Excellence at Curtin (see http://ctl.curtin.edu.au/teaching_learning_practice/) outlines the engagement of Scholarship in Teaching and Learning as seeking to improve teaching by:

- Consulting and applying the literature on learning and teaching
- Investigating their own teaching
- Adopting innovative teaching approaches
- Formally communicating their ideas and practice to peers through publication and other formal means; and
- Seeking and obtaining peer recognition for their ideas and practice.

These internal seed grants provide the opportunity for staff in Teaching Academic (TA) roles to build a profile in the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning. Up to five grants of $10,000 each will be awarded to successful applicants by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic.

Aims

The aims of the Teaching Academic Scholarship Grants are –

- To provide funding to support Teaching Academics to investigate, develop and implement innovations in teaching and learning.
- To assist Teaching Academics in building pathways for promotional and career opportunities;
- To build capacity in Scholarship of Teaching and Learning for academics in TA roles.
• To assist in developing a scholarly record to enhance the success of those applying for externally funded grant schemes.
• To promote the evaluation of teaching practice and continuous professional learning to enhance teaching excellence.

Eligibility to Apply

To be eligible to apply for a Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed (TASS) Grant, applicants will be:
• Employed in a Teaching Academic role at Curtin University;
• The appointment must be of at least 0.5 full-time equivalent;
• The appointment must be for at least a two year term (a provision for exceptional circumstances may be considered).

Applying for a Grant

Applicants who have had limited exposure to the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning should attend the information session which will be advertised. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application within their first year appointment to a Teaching Academic position.

An applicant should discuss the proposal with their Head of School and/or the Faculty Dean of Teaching and Learning to ensure that the project is relevant to their current Teaching Academic role and is an appropriate type of proposal for the funding available.

Please note:
• The Curtin Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed Grant is not designed to provide funds for projects that constitute the topic of an applicant’s research higher degree thesis.
• Applicants are not able to receive funding from the Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed (TASS) Grant and the Teaching Excellence Development Fund (TEDF) for the same project. More information on the TEDF is available at: http://ctl.curtin.edu.au/research/tedf.cfm

Submission of Applications

Applications for Round 2, 2016 TASS Grants will be open from Monday 7 March 2016 to Friday 8 April 2016 and applications should be submitted electronically via Qualtrics. This link can be found on the TASS Grants website. When submitting your application, you must also upload email approval from your Head of School. Applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application in the week beginning Monday 9 May 2016.

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed against the following criteria:
• The proposal demonstrates an understanding of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL);
• The area of SoTL is relevant to the discipline in which they teach;
• The outcomes will contribute to the SOTL of the discipline and be applicable to other discipline learning and teaching practices;
• The proposal has a well-integrated conceptual framework (design, method and analysis)
• The linkage to an application for external funding for future scholarship.

Reporting Requirements

On completion of the project a one-page report is to be provided to the Faculty Dean of Teaching and Learning and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can a team apply for a Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed Grant?
A: Yes, Teaching Academic staff may team up to apply for the grant. All team members must be Teaching Academic staff as the grant is designed to help build capacity specifically for teaching academic staff.

Q: Is there a provision to buy out teaching time?
A: No, the grant cannot be used to buy out teaching time. It can be used to recruit someone to assist with the project e.g. to investigate new software or help build or develop online activities or conduct a literature review etc.

Q: Must the project funding by the Teaching Academic Scholarship Seed Grant be finished by the end of the year?
A: Yes, this is the intention. The final report is due by December 2016 for collation and presentation to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Education. Funds cannot be rolled over, therefore must be used in 2016.

Q: Can I only apply within the first year of my Teaching Academic role?
A: No, while we encourage staff to apply within their first year, the panel will consider applications after the first year.

Q: Can I purchase IT equipment for the project (for example laptop computers) using grant funding?
A: The purchase of hardware is not usually supported through the grant, however, where a new technology may be integral to the project outcomes it will be considered. It must be well justified as to how it will be investigated in the grant to demonstrate impact on student learning.

Further Information

Further information or assistance may be obtained from the Curtin Learning Institute, email: Awards_and_Grants@curtin.edu.au or telephone: 9266 2123.

Curtin Learning Institute
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