



Writing Across the Curriculum Fellowship Program 2019/2020

The Writing Across the Curriculum (WAC) Fellowship Program is seeking proposals for collaborative educational research in the area of writing pedagogy for art and design education for the 2019/2020 academic year. These Fellowships present an exciting opportunity to collaborate with colleagues through interdisciplinary dialogue and contribute to OCAD U's commitment to pedagogical research, enhancing our teaching and learning environment and supporting the student experience.

The goals of the WAC Fellowship Program are, broadly, to support the development of writing pedagogy for art and design education, advance teaching practices that support English language learning and develop a network of faculty who provide leadership in the use of writing to facilitate student learning in a variety of course contexts through meaningful, evidence-based practice. Typically, the focus of the Fellowship is on the development of pedagogical strategies to support student writing and academic communication skills within the undergraduate curriculum, specifically, to develop and implement high or low-stakes writing activities and assignments that facilitate student learning in program-specific contexts. Research activities are conducted through a collaboration between the instructor and a writing or language specialist within the WLC. This approach is modelled upon a number of successful research collaborations between faculty and WLC staff during the first four years of the WAC Initiative. Visit the [WAC website](#) to see examples of successful and ongoing WAC Fellowships and research projects.

Up to three WAC Fellowships will be awarded, with faculty representing different undergraduate programs and disciplines within the Faculties of Art, Design and Liberal Arts and Sciences and School of Interdisciplinary Studies. Each WAC Fellow will receive up to \$3,000 in funding to support research activities associated with the Fellowship. Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis and priority will be given to faculty teaching a WAC-designated course (for a list of WAC courses, please visit the [WAC website](#)). Distribution of the Fellowships across the three undergraduate Faculties, programs, disciplinary areas and pedagogical approaches will also be a consideration in the selection of successful applications.

The terms of the Fellowship are as follows:

- The WAC Fellow will work collaboratively with a writing or language specialist in the design and execution of a collaborative pedagogical research project undertaken in a course context, with an emphasis on integrative approaches to writing in art and design education. Fellowships may also include faculty collaborators, i.e. in the case of team taught or multi-section courses.



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- The WAC Fellow will participate in a mutually agreed upon schedule of research meetings with the collaborating member of the WAC team for the duration of the research.
- The WAC Fellow, together with their collaborator, will design and lead one professional learning activity for OCAD U faculty, based on the research project, to build awareness of promising practices for writing instruction in art and design education (this may be in collaboration with one of the other WAC Fellows).
- The WAC Fellow, together with their collaborator, will make one presentation within their Faculty (i.e. through the Faculty curriculum committee or another appropriate venue) to share the research findings, likely upon conclusion of the project.
- The WAC Fellow will support the WAC Initiative in their Faculty by acting as a liaison with their Faculty curriculum committee and other committees as relevant.
- The WLC will provide the WAC Fellow with up to \$3,000 in funding to support research activities associated with the Fellowship (e.g. conference attendance, teaching or research assistantship).
- The WLC will provide access to bookable space for research meetings and other related activities, and relevant administrative support.
- The WLC will promote and support the professional learning and knowledge dissemination activities associated with the research project.
- All Fellowship activities (i.e. research, analysis, dissemination/presentations) will normally be completed within six months of the completion of the course in which the research was undertaken. For proposals in which the research activities or dissemination are to exceed this duration, a clear rationale should be provided.

Eligibility: WAC Fellows must be teaching an undergraduate course at OCAD U during the year for which the proposed research project is to take place (2019/20).

Application Process: We invite interested faculty members to submit a short (up to 750 words) proposal outlining the following:

1. Your name, program and Faculty.
2. The course code/name and description for the course for which you are proposing the research.
3. Your goals for undertaking the Fellowship. Identify a specific pedagogical concern you would like to address and the research question you propose to investigate, briefly outlining how you intend to answer your question (i.e., the methodology or approach you will undertake, such as what activity or assignment you will develop and how you will evaluate the results).
4. Your approach to and interest in using writing to support student learning in art and design education. This may include your experience using writing in your courses or prior engagement with the WAC initiative.



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5. The way this Fellowship relates to your long-term goals with respect to teaching and research.
6. The names of proposed project collaborators (i.e. a writing or language specialist, faculty) and a description of how you envision collaborating with a member of the WAC team on the proposed pedagogical research project (applicants are encouraged to set up an appointment with a member of the WAC team to discuss).
7. A brief description of your proposed plans for communicating and disseminating the results of your work within OCAD U and beyond, as relevant.
8. Budget/proposed use of funds (see OCAD U's [Research Administration Policy](#) for guidelines and eligible expenses).

Applicants are encouraged to address the WAC Fellowship Evaluation Criteria when preparing their proposals (see below). Please email proposals to wac@ocadu.ca by **April 5, 2019**. Proposals will be reviewed by a committee of faculty and academic staff in relation to the evaluation criteria below. The 2019/2020 WAC Fellows will be announced by May 15, 2019.

If you are interested, but would like to learn more, join us for an Information Session on Friday, March 1 at 12noon in Room 510a, 113 McCaul Street. At this session, we will share examples of past collaborative research projects that served as a model for the WAC Fellowship Program and address questions about the application process. To RSVP for this session, or to set up an appointment to discuss a proposed collaboration with a member of the WAC team, email wac@ocadu.ca.



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WAC Fellowship Evaluation Criteria*

Contribution:

- clarity of research goals or questions and strength of rationale for approach
- relevance of proposed research to goals of the WAC initiative to improve undergraduate student writing and promote effective practices for teaching and learning in art and design education
- significance and expected contribution to the practice and/or scholarship of writing and/or language learning pedagogy
- clear and achievable plan for knowledge dissemination within and beyond the university

Feasibility:

- the methodology, approach and/or methods for undertaking the research are clear and appropriate to the research questions, goals or projected outcomes
- evidence of plan for a collaborative approach that combines the expertise of faculty and staff in the research design and/or implementation
- appropriateness of the requested budget and justification of proposed costs

Experience:

- evidence that proposed research relates to applicant's experience and long-term goals with respect to teaching and research

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