

## **UTM Faculty Writing Fellowship Program**

### **Call for Proposals (2017-2018)**

Funded by the Office of the Dean and coordinated by the Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC), the UTM Faculty Writing Fellowship program promotes academic writing instruction across the curriculum by supporting faculty members' exploration of innovative strategies for using writing as a means of improving student engagement and learning. Typically, the focus of the fellowship is on the development of new writing exercises, writing assignments, methods of assessment, and / or SoTL research related to post-secondary writing. The goal of this program is not only to improve individual faculty members' understanding of current evidence-based approaches to academic writing instruction, but also to develop a network of Departmental teaching mentors who can support their colleagues' efforts to use writing as a learning tool.

One Faculty Writing Fellowship will be awarded to one faculty member in the Winter term of each academic year. Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis (see below for details). The terms of the Fellowship are as follows:

- The Writing Fellow will work under the guidance of the RGASC's Writing Specialist.
- The Writing Fellow and Writing Specialist will create a mutually agreeable schedule of 6 meetings (i.e., every other week) per term. The focus of the meetings will be determined by the Writing Fellow's interests and priorities, but will likely be on the writing exercises, assignments, or classroom / tutorial instruction to be developed for the following year.
- The Writing Fellow will participate in (and, if applicable, lead a component of) the regularly scheduled RGASC Professional Development sessions for Writing Instructors (approximately 6 hours per term)
- The Writing Fellow will develop and lead a Teaching-Learning-Collaboration Group seminar on academic writing instruction at the end of the Winter term.
- The Writing Fellow will be encouraged to participate in the Writing TA Training program held every Winter term for Teaching Assistants in courses supported by the Writing Development Initiative (WDI).
- The Writing Fellow will promote and support RGASC programming in his/her Department during and after the funding period covered by the Fellowship.
- The RGASC will provide office space (one day per week) and administrative support for the Writing Fellow, as required.
- The RGASC will provide the Writing Fellow with a 0.5 FCE course release from his/her regular teaching duties. This course release must be approved in advance by the Department Chair.

- The RGASC will ensure the Writing Fellow has access to textual resources, and opportunities for collaboration and consultation with students and faculty members who can contribute to his/her professional development.

**Eligibility:** For the pilot phase of this project, Writing Fellows must be post-tenure/continuing status faculty members holding full-time appointments at the University of Toronto Mississauga. Depending on demand, post-interim/probationary review faculty members may be considered in the future.

**Application Process:** Interested faculty members should submit a short (maximum 500 words) proposal outlining the following:

- 1) Their experience with academic writing instruction at the post-secondary level. Applicants should provide a brief summary of the writing-intensive courses they have taught, writing assessment strategies they have used, writing exercises they have designed, writing workshops they have designed / delivered, etc.
- 2) Their objectives while undertaking the Fellowship. Applicants should identify the specific pedagogical problem they would like to address or what they would like to learn / accomplish through the Fellowship.
- 3) The way this professional development opportunity relates to their long-term goals. Applicants should explain how they will apply the learning and experience from this Fellowship to their future teaching at UTM and how collaboration with the RGASC will impact the teaching and learning community at UTM more broadly.

All proposals must be accompanied by a signed letter of support from the applicant's Chair.

Please note the UTM Faculty Writing Fellowship Program is a new initiative being piloted in the Winter term of 2018. We recognize that the timeline specified below may make it difficult for a Department to adjust the teaching load of a faculty member who receives a Fellowship. In future years, applications will be due and decisions on awards made earlier in the academic year to ensure Departments have sufficient time to make changes to their faculty members' teaching assignments.

Please email application materials to Tyler Evans-Tokaryk ([tyler.tokaryk@utoronto.ca](mailto:tyler.tokaryk@utoronto.ca)) by August 15, 2017. Proposals will be reviewed by a Committee of five faculty members including the Director of the RGASC, the RGASC's Writing Specialist, and one faculty member from the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences. The winner of the Fellowship will be announced by September 15, 2017.