

Innovation in Graduate Education Award

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

Deadline for Applications, April 1st, 2011

The University of Western Ontario
Teaching Support Centre 

The purpose of the **Innovation in Graduate Education Award** is to encourage programs and departments to pursue innovation in graduate education, mentorship and graduate student professional development, in order to match Western's commitment to the highest standards and quality of graduate education.

Innovation in graduate education projects may take many forms, such as initiatives that:

- develop innovative new graduate programs (such as interdisciplinary or course based master's degrees);
- re-design the graduate curriculum in a discipline to incorporate creative approaches to mentorship or professional development for graduate students
- create career development workshops preparing students for the academic or non-academic job search in collaboration with the Student Success Centre (formerly Career Centre)
- design innovative graduate seminars that incorporate grant writing, enhance students' academic communication skills, or involve career coaching and mentorship
- introduce orientation activities that may help socialize graduate students to the culture of the discipline
- create online resources or programs that enhance students' ability to write for publication
- prepare future faculty in the discipline by engaging graduate students in research on teaching
- develop students' leadership skills

The Innovation in Graduate Education Award will be awarded through an annual competition adjudicated by a review committee comprised of three or four faculty members selected by the Vice-Provost Graduate Education (or designate) and the Director of the Teaching Support Centre.

AWARD VALUE

- **One, \$5000 award will be granted**
- Recipients may use the funds awarded to develop innovation projects for curriculum re-design or program development, development of online resources, creation of new mentoring, orientation or career development programs for graduate students, or other initiatives that enhance the quality of training, supervision and mentorship that graduate students receive at Western.



ELIGIBILITY

- The award is open to current faculty members or teams of faculty members with membership in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (members of the Affiliated University Colleges are not eligible).
- Proposals need to be supported by the chair, graduate chair and dean in the applicant's department or program. Applicants are encouraged to consult with the chair, graduate chair and dean before preparing an application.
- Awards may be awarded to support the development of a new innovation or in recognition of an existing innovation already in use at Western that would be enhanced by further development.
- Preference will be given to initiatives that have the potential to impact all or most students in the applicant's program area.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

- *Impact* or proposed impact on the quality of graduate education and mentorship at Western
- *Transferability* to other programs/instructors
- *Sustainability* of, and differentiation created for Western, by the innovation (including plan to sustain project beyond the funding year)
- *Novelty* of the innovation
- *Project does not duplicate programs and services and resources already available* to graduate students through campus wide components of the 360^o Graduate Student Development Initiative (see grad.uwo.ca/360 for listings)
- All applications must be accompanied by an explanation of how the five criteria have been or will be met.
- The application must include a time line and benchmarks for delivery of the innovation.

EVALUATION COMMITTEE

A committee of 3-4 faculty members selected by the Vice-Provost, Graduate Education (or designate) and the Director of the Teaching Support Centre will review the applications and recommend the recipients for the award to the Vice-Provost, Graduate Education.

TIMING

Applications are due by April 1st, 2011. Decisions will be made by May 1st, allowing the award recipient use of the funds for the 2011-12 academic year.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Completed applications (an original plus five copies) should be forwarded to the Teaching Support Centre, Room 122, The D.B. Weldon Library.

Before submitting a proposal, applicants are strongly encouraged to set up a consultation/review with the Teaching Support Centre. Please contact Debra Dawson, Director, Teaching Support Centre, 661-2111, ext. 84621; email dldawson@uwo.ca

There are five parts to the proposal submission:

1. Summary Description of the Project (1 page Maximum)
2. The Proposal (5 pages maximum)
3. Short Curriculum Vitae (4 pages maximum)
4. Overview of the graduate program in which the innovation is proposed, including a description of how the innovation proposed fits into the curriculum of the given program (2 pages maximum)
5. Cover Sheet with endorsements by the Chair/Director, Graduate Chair and Dean

PROPOSAL SUBMISSIONS SHOULD INCLUDE

- a rationale for the project;
- project objectives;
- time lines;
- the number of students affected by the project;
- a budget outline that indicates whether or not funds are available and/or requested from other sources;
- a plan for the dissemination of the project outcome(s) within the University;
- a plan for the sustainability of the innovation and differentiation created for Western by the innovation;
- and a description of how the innovation helps students progress towards meeting specific Graduate Degree Level Expectations (GDLE's) and how the initiative promotes the development of essential graduate student professional skills identified by the Canadian Association of Graduate Studies (CAGS).

RESOURCES

An overview of GDLE's can be found online at: <http://ocgs.cou.on.ca/bin/briefsReports.cfm> (see report #8 - September 2005)

The CAGS report on professional skill development for graduate students is available at: <http://www.cags.ca/pages/en/publications/cags-publications.php> (report #2)

REQUIREMENTS OF RECIPIENTS

- Award recipients must be willing to share their innovation with the rest of the University, through promotion or distribution by the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies or the Teaching Support Centre, or other appropriate mechanism.
- Recipients must be willing to give a talk at the University about their innovation during the academic year following the year in which the award is received.
- Recipients must submit:
 - i. a brief interim report by October of the year they received the award
 - ii. a final report outlining the success of the project and how the funds were used by September 1 following the academic year in which the award is received.