



Scholarship of Teaching and Learning (SoTL)

1 Purpose of the funds

The purpose of the SoTL funds is to provide lecturers with an opportunity to research their own teaching-learning praxis in a scientific manner in order to improve teaching and learning, expand their research and deliver research outputs.

2 Who can apply?

Any academic staff member who teaches one or more graduate and/or postgraduate module(s) in a faculty at the North West University. Centre for Teaching and Learning personnel conducting research in their focus areas are also encourage to apply for SoTL project funding.

3 Requirements and criteria

Applications will be strictly evaluated according to the following specific criteria:

- The research should be focused on the teaching-learning praxis of the individual lecturer or group of lecturers working together. The lecturer/lecturers' must identify a specific gap in his/her/their own teaching/learning that can be addressed through SoTL research.
- The research should be conducted within the lecturer's own module
- An action research approach is strongly recommended. In action research, qualitative and quantitative research is effectively combined. Lecturer reflection plays a significant role in guiding the research process.
- The research must be conducted within all ethical requirements of the NWU. Applicants are responsible for applying for ethical clearance from their faculties' ethical committees. Ethics numbers must be sent to the SoTL office after ethical clearance.

4 Expected outputs

Successful applications must provide evidence of the following outputs at the end of the funding period.

- Final report on the research project
- Public making of the results on a teaching-learning forum, e.g. the Annual NWU teaching and learning conference, national, conferences, international conferences, book chapters, faculty colloquiums or any other formal forum.
- Article (in any stage of planning up to submitted for publication)

5 Application process

It is the responsibility of the Dean to send the SoTL application to Directors and other people of interest. It is important that the SoTL application is processed through the faculty's own research application processes including research and ethics committee. SoTL projects must be authorized and signed off by the Dean of the Faculty and School/ Research Entity Director. According to their judgment more lecturers can be involved in the project. During this phase it is important that a decision is made as to what research focus area the project and eventual output will be positioned. The application form requires recommendation/ approval at faculty level.

5.1 List of documents

- SoTL application template
- Award notification letter
- Acceptance letter
- Financial guidelines
- Progress report

6 Important dates

6.1 Closing date for applications

Applications must be submitted electronically to jessica.pool@nwu.ac.za on or before end of March for the 2021-2022 cycle. No applications can be accepted without proof of ethical clearance.

For any further information please contact the SoTL project manager – jessica.pool@nwu.ac.za