

Announcement: WatCACE Research Funding

WatCACE (the Center for the Advancement of Co-operative Education at the University of Waterloo) announces the next round of competition for funding to support research on both applied and theoretical aspects of co-operative education. In this round, priority will be given to projects that will investigate (a) the outcomes of co-operative education, particularly those outcomes that are academic and psychological in nature, (b) pedagogical activities that support reflection on and integration of learning at work and learning at school, and/or (c) the long term career and personal value of co-op, and (d) the outcomes of co-operative education as compared to other forms of experiential education. The maximum support for any one project during any year is \$20,000. Support can be available for a maximum of three years for any project.

The goals of the program are to enhance the practice of co-op at Waterloo and elsewhere, to enhance understanding of the pedagogical model and the consequences of co-op, and to enhance the reputation of Waterloo as a world leader in the understanding of, as well as the practice of, co-operative education.

Applications are required and awards are competitive. Reviews of applications and decisions on awards are under the direction of a Review Committee that includes the Director of WatCACE (Chair), a representative from the faculty complement of the Co-operative Education Council, and a representative from among the senior staff of the Co-operative Education and Career Services department. External and internal reviewers can be consulted as necessary.

Priority is given to research proposals that show promise of leading to external funding and refereed publication. Awardees are required to hire a UW co-op student for at least one term in each year of an award.

The deadline for receipt of applications is September 1, 2010. Results will be announced in early October. Funds will be available as early as October 1, 2010, though the funds can, by request, be delayed until no later than January 2011.

Applicants must submit a proposal electronically. The proposal must be no more than 12 pages that cover the usual topics:

- (1) A Cover Page with Title, Principal Investigator and Co-investigators, and Faculty/School/Department,
- (2) A Summary or Abstract that highlights key aspects of the proposal,
- (3) A statement of Rationale and Objectives of the proposed research, specifically referring to the goals of the proposed research and how the goals advance the goals of the research program,
- (4) A Review of Relevant Literature ending with a summary of key issues,

(5) the Research Plan, including the research design, data/information to be collected, the plan for collecting and for analyzing the data, and a statement of how the plan and data address key issues,

(6) A Plan for Dissemination of the results of the research,

(7) A Budget: (Note that funds to support the research are to be used only to support activities required by the Research Plan. The funds can not be used to cover travel to conferences for the purpose of presentation of research results. Such travel can be funded by a separate application. Nor can funds be used to support existing, ongoing operational costs in either academic or academic support units.),

(8) A Schedule of research activities, and

(9) A Projection re potential for external funding.

(10) In addition, the principal and all other investigators should include a current vita as an appendix to the application.

The proposal must be endorsed by the Chair/Director of the Department/School and by the Dean of the Faculty or by the appropriate Director and appropriate Associate Provost or Vice-President. The brief endorsement (no more than one page) must indicate that those signing are aware of the proposal, that they accept responsibility for expenditures that exceed the funds awarded, and that the necessary facilities are available to support the research (e.g., space, administrative, secretarial and computing support).

Principal investigators will be expected to submit a brief (one page) update at the end of each year of a multi-year grant, to submit a brief final report at the end of the grant period, and to make a presentation each year to the WatCACE Research Seminar.

Proposals and questions should be submitted to the Director of WatCACE, Gary Waller at tgwaller@uwaterloo.ca.