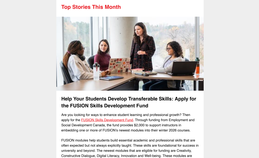
Carleton University

Teaching and Learning Services News

November Newsletter

Top Stories This Month

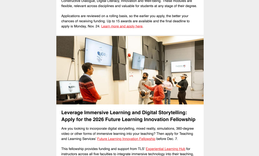


Help Your Students Develop Transferable Skills: Apply for the FUSION Skills Development Fund

Are you looking for ways to enhance student learning and professional growth? The Fusion Skills Development Fund, a partnership between the Office of the Vice-President for Social Development Canada, the fund provides $5,000 to support instructors in embedding one or more of FUSION's core transfer modules into their winter 2026 courses.

FUSION modules help students build essential academic and professional skills that are often expected but not always explicitly taught. These skills are foundational for success in university and beyond. They extend modules that are eligible for funding via Carleton's Constructive Dialogue, Digital Literacy, Innovation and Well-being. These modules are flexible, relevant across disciplines and valuable for students at any stage of their degree.

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, so the earlier you apply, the better your chances of receiving funding. The fund supports projects that end in the fall and therefore apply to Monday, Dec. 15. Learn more and apply here.



Leverage Immersive Learning and Digital Storytelling: Apply for the 2026 Future Learning Innovation Fellowship

Are you looking to incorporate digital storytelling, mixed reality, simulations, 360-degree video, or other immersive learning technologies into your teaching? The Future Learning and Learning Technologies Council (FLCLT) invites applications for the 2026 Future Learning Innovation Fellowship, before Dec. 5.

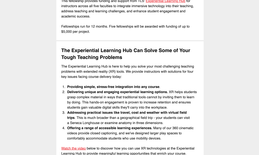
This fellowship provides funding and support from TLS' Experiential Learning Hub for instructors across all five faculties to integrate immersive technologies into their teaching, address teaching and learning challenges, and enhance student engagement and academic success.

Fellowships run for 12 months. Five fellowships will be awarded with funding of up to $5,000 per project.

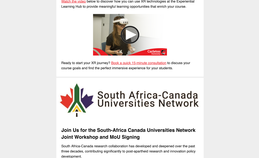
The Experiential Learning Hub is here to help you solve your most challenging teaching problems with extended reality (XR) tools. We provide consultations with solutions for four key areas:

- **Providing certain experiences that instructors find very crucial**
- **Delivering unique and engaging experiential learning options.** XR helps students practice high-stakes interactions in low-stakes environments, building confidence step by step. This hands-on engagement is proven to increase retention and ensure students gain valuable digital skills that carry into the workplace.
- **Creating immersive learning environments that are safe and inclusive.** Real time is much broader than a geographical field trip – your students can visit a Geneva Longitude or examine anatomy in three dimensions.
- **Offering a range of accessible learning experiences.** Many of our 360 cinematic videos provide closed captioning, and we leverage designed play spaces to comfortably accommodate students who use mobility devices.

Watch this video to discover how you can use XR technologies at the Experiential Learning Hub to provide meaningful learning opportunities that enrich your course.



Ready to start your XR journey? Book a quick 15-minute consultation to discuss your course goals and find the perfect immersive experience for your students.

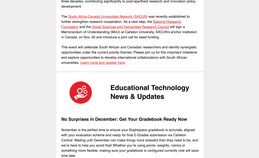


Join Us for the South Africa-Canada Universities Network Joint Workshop and MoU Signing

South Africa-Canada research collaboration has developed and deepened over the past three decades, contributing significantly to South African research and innovation policy development.

The South Africa-Canada Universities Network (SACUN) was recently established to further strengthen research cooperation. As a next step, the National Research Foundation and the South Scholarship and Universities Research Council will sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at Carleton University. SACUN's anchor institution in Canada, on Nov. 26 and introduce a joint call for seed funding.

This event will celebrate South African and Canadian researchers and identify synergies between research priorities and funding opportunities. It will also offer a space for discussion and explore opportunities to develop international collaborations with South African universities. Learn more and register here.



Educational Technology News & Updates

No Surprises in December: Get Your Gradebook Ready Now

Newsletter is the perfect time to ensure your Brightspace gradebook is accurate, aligned with your evaluation scheme and ready for final D2L Grades submission via Carleton Central. Working until December can create things more stressful than they need to be, and we're here to help you avoid that! Whether you're using points, weights, rubrics or simple marks, keeping your gradebook in order throughout the semester makes final grading much easier.

Not sure if your settings reflect your course outline? Have a mix of auto-graded and manually graded items? Using contract grading, specs grading or a different alternative approach? Let us take a look! Submit your syllabus and a link to your gradebook through our TLS Support Portal, and we'll help to make sure everything aligns.

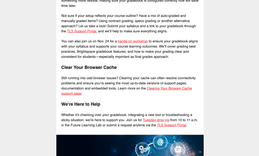
You can also join us on Nov. 24 for a hands-on workshop to ensure your gradebook aligns with your syllabus and supports your course learning outcomes. We'll cover grading best practices, Brightspace gradebook features, and how to make your grading clear and consistent for students—especially important as final grades approach.

Clear Your Browser Cache

Still running into odd browser issues? Clearing your cache can often resolve compatibility problems and ensure you're seeing the most up-to-date versions of support pages, documentation and embedded tools. Learn more on the Clearing Your Browser Cache support page.

We're Here to Help

Whether it's checking over your gradebook, integrating a new tool or troubleshooting a sticky situation, we're here to support you. Join us for Tuesday drop-ins from 10 to 11 a.m. in the Future Learning Lab or submit a request anytime via the TLS Support Portal.

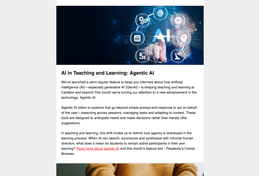


AI in Teaching and Learning: Agentic AI

We've launched a semi-regular feature to keep you informed about how artificial intelligence (AI) is responsibly generative AI (GenAI) – is shaping teaching and learning at Carleton and beyond This month we're turning our attention to a new advancement in the technology: Agentic AI.

Agentic AI refers to systems that go beyond simple prompt-and-response to act on behalf of the user—exercising access sessions, managing tasks and adapting to context. These tools are designed to anticipate needs and make decisions rather than merely offer suggestions.

In teaching and learning, this shift invites us to rethink how agency is distributed in the classroom. Agentic AI can support students in managing workflows, organizing research, or simulation, while does it mean for students to remain active participants in their own learning? Read more about agentic AI and this month's feature tool - Perplexity's Comet Browser.



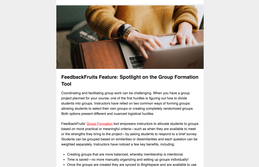
FeedbackFruits Feature: Spotlight on the Group Formation Tool

Coordinating and facilitating group work can be challenging. When you have a group project planned for your course, one of the first hurdles is figuring out how to divide students into groups. Instructors have relied on two common ways of forming groups: allowing students to select their own groups or creating randomly randomized groups. Both options present different and nuanced logistical hurdles.

FeedbackFruits' Group Formation tool empowers instructors to allocate students to groups based on more practical or meaningful criteria—such as when they are available to meet or their preferred working styles—while keeping the process fair and transparent for students. Students can be grouped based on attributes or diagnostic questions and each question can be weighted separately. Instructors have noticed a few key benefits, including:

- Creating groups that are more balanced, whereby membership is intentional
- Time is saved—no more manually organizing and setting up groups individually!
- Once the groups are created they are synced to Brightspace and are available for use in other Brightspace tools (e.g. Brightspace assignments, other FeedbackFruits activities).

Learn more practice tips for success and see cases for the Group Formation tool.

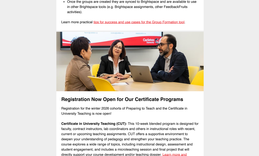


Registration Now Open for Our Certificate Programs

Registration for the winter 2026 cohorts of Preparing to Teach and the Certificate in University Teaching is now open!

Certificate in University Teaching (CUT): This 10-week blended program is designed for faculty, school contractors, lab coordinators and others in instructional roles with recent, current or upcoming teaching assignments. CUT offers a supportive environment to explore teaching practices, reflect on your teaching, and connect with colleagues. The course explores a wide range of topics, including instructional design, assessment and student engagement, and includes a microteaching session and final project that will directly support your course development and/or teaching dossier. Learn more and register here. Registration closes Dec. 11.

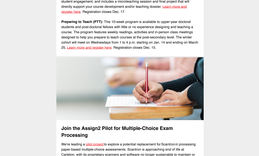
Preparing to Teach (PT): This 12-week program is available to upper-year doctoral students and post-doctoral fellows with little or no experience designing and teaching a course. It offers a practical introduction to teaching in higher education and provides participants the tools they need to prepare to teach courses at the post-secondary level. The winter cohort will meet on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. starting on Jan. 14 and ending on March 25. Learn more and register here. Registration closes Dec. 15.



Join the Assign2 Pilot for Multiple-Choice Exam Processing

We're leading a pilot project to explore a potential replacement for Scantron's processing paper-based multiple-choice assessments. Scantron is approaching end of life at Carleton, with its proprietary scanners and software no longer sustainable to maintain or support. We're testing a digital workflow called Assign2 that allows students to upload and translate to gradable machine-readable and feedback. Scantron services will still be available throughout this academic year.

If you're interested in participating in the pilot during the winter 2026 term, apply here.



Course Design Corner: Designing for Sustainability

Feeling the rush between courses? You're not alone. Instructional designer Kate Chapman shares practical, time-saving strategies for designing sustainable courses. Her instructions first sustainable course design can help. Streamline your feedback by using clear rubrics, peer review or reusable comment banks. Small efficiencies this semester can build habits that lighten the load next term.

Whether it's rubric redesign, integrating peer review or thinking through design regrets, we're happy to help you out. Submit a request anytime via the TLS Support Portal.

Accessible Teaching Tip: Video and Audio Components

Video and audio are an effective and inclusive way to present information, share lecture content, enhance comprehension and boost engagement. In order to support a variety of learners and be AODA compliant, video and audio components must meet the following requirements.

Descriptions of essential visuals

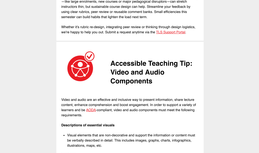
- Visual elements that are non-descriptive and support the information or content must be verbally described in detail. This includes images, graphs, charts, infographics, illustrations, maps, etc.

Captions

- All audio content must have machine-generated or closed captions that accurately reflect spoken dialogue and non-speech elements (music, sound effects, laughter, etc.)
- Captions need to be properly formatted and correctly synchronized
- Captions cannot be hard-coded into video – users must be able to control the look and functionality of the captions.

Transcripts

- All video and audio components must be accompanied by transcripts. Just like captions, transcripts should include spoken dialogue and non-speech elements.
- The descriptions of the non-speech elements must be clearly distinguishable from the spoken dialogue (e.g. in brackets or parentheses)
- All speakers must be clearly identified either by name or as "speaker/narrator."
- Transcripts must be easy to access and downloadable in formats such as .docx and accessible PDFs.



Reminder: Awards and Funding Calls for Applications

- **Carleton University Experiential Learning Fund (CUEL):** The deadline to apply for the Carleton University Experiential Learning Fund (CUEL) is the Thursday, Nov. 6. Don't miss the opportunity to create or enhance experiential learning opportunities for students. The fund provides up to $5,000 to support course-based experiential learning activities.
- **Achievement Awards:** There's still time to apply for Carleton's Achievement Awards. Nominations for the Teaching Assistant Award, the Teaching Assistant Award and Instructor Teaching Innovation Grant is Nov. 20. The deadline to apply for the Professional Achievement Award for Faculty, Teaching Stream and the Librarian Achievement Award is Dec. 20. Visit the Achievement Awards webpage for full details, eligibility and submission guidelines.

More News

- **Leading Through Change: Rethinking EDI in a Time of Sensitivity:** Equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in higher education faces growing political, public and institutional pressure. This Nov. 12 panel, hosted by the Centre for Research in Diversity and Inclusive Excellence is hosting an online panel that will brighten scholars and institutional leaders to explore how universities can navigate these challenges while maintaining their commitments to teaching, accessibility and social responsibility. Register here.
- **Tree's Soft, Sympathetic Call for Papers:** Rachel Ihnfeldt is a finalist, chair SoCandidate Tree's Soft, Sympathetic Call for Papers, a conference that will take place on Nov. 14 at the Ottawa Hub in Ottawa. Teaching and Learning Tree's Soft Sympathetic Call for Papers seeks educators from across Canada to share their work in the scholarship of teaching and learning. Submit a proposal by end of day on Friday. Presenters ranging from completed SoTL research to strategic discussions. Proposals will be accepted until Friday.
- **Carleton Outdoor Collective:** The Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities is introducing an online multifaith calendar highlighting religious days of observance and cultural events. The calendar is a shared resource for students and staff to support advancing equity, diversity, inclusion and belonging, while supporting the planning of events, meetings and religious accommodations. For questions or assistance with accommodations, contact the Department of Equity and Inclusive Communities.

Upcoming Events and Workshops

- Lecterpreta Analysis: Metaphor and Stereo in Teaching and Learning Nov. 5, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Leading Through Change: Rethinking EDI in a Time of Sensitivity Nov. 5, 2 to 4 p.m.
- Tree's Soft, Sympathetic Call for Papers Nov. 14, 9 to 11 a.m. Ottawa Hub
- Welcome to Accessibility: Alternative Assessment Strategies and Free Tools Nov. 14, 11 to 12 p.m.
- Understanding Neurodiversity Nov. 14, 12 to 1:30 p.m.
- Welcome to Mr. Chameleon: An Dr. Seuss's Developmental Tool Nov. 18, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- Using Educational Technology to Streamline Teaching Practices Nov. 14, 10 to 11:30 a.m.
- FeedbackFruits - Discussion on Tools and Discussion on Web Nov. 19, 10 to 11 a.m.
- South Africa Canada Universities Network Joint Workshop and MoU Signing Nov. 26 2 to 11 a.m.
- Leading Your Way: Gradebook with Your Course Learning Outcomes Nov. 24, 1 to 2:30 p.m.
- Mobile Microlearning with Location Based XR Nov. 26, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- Teaching Assistant Workshop Series Nov. 5, 9:30 to 9:50 a.m.
- Collaborative Immersive Learning Worlds (Immersify of Practice) Nov. 10, 10:30 a.m. to noon

Don't forget we hold drop-in sessions every Tuesday in the Future Learning Lab (room 465) from 10 to 11 a.m. to help you with your course needs. Bring your laptop and any teaching-related questions you have.

Missed an event? Watch recorded sessions on our Mediaspace channel.

View all events

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