



# IN THE LOOP

The Centre for Teaching Excellence Newsletter



## Upcoming workshops and events

### **Integrated Accessibility Retreat (CTE7032)**

Thursday, July 17 - 9:30am-3:30pm, MC 2036

At this one-day retreat you'll learn how to incorporate accessible education practices into your course. To reduce feelings of being overwhelmed, this is for instructors at

## **Integrating GenAI in Assessments (CTE7551)**

Tuesday, July 22 - 1:00pm-3:00pm, MC 2036

This workshop introduces instructors to a structured framework for integrating AI into course assessments, using a modified version of Perkins' AI Assessment Scale to facilitate transparent discussions about AI use with students. Participants will engage in hands-on activities to explore appropriate AI tools and approaches for their specific classroom contexts.

## **Using GenAI to Enhance Student Learning (CTE7552)**

Wednesday, July 30 - 11:00am-12:00pm, MC 2036

Learn about the PLOC framework (Persona, Level, Output, Context) for crafting effective GenAI prompts, and the various personas AI can act as, to enhance student learning and critical thinking. This hands-on workshop combines a 30-minute interactive presentation with 30 minutes of structured AI exploration.

## **GenAI in Teaching Material Development (CTE7553)**

Wednesday, August 6 - 2:00pm-3:00pm, MC 2036

This workshop explores practical ways GenAI can assist in developing a wide range of teaching materials. Focus areas include: i) course planning and design, ii) creation of lecture content and instructional materials, iii) creation of (formative) assessments, and iv) creation of interactive and creative content.

## **August New Faculty Teaching Days**

Tuesday, August 12 - Thursday, August 14, MC 2036

These events allow instructors to complete a variety of the workshops that form the core of our New Faculty offerings. You may register for as many or as few as you feel you need.

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## **Graduate programming**

### **New Instructor Foundations Program for Graduate and Postdoctoral Instructors**

Wednesday, August 6 - Friday, August 8, in-person

course in the Fall 2025 or Winter 2026 term are invited to register for the [New Instructor Foundations Program](#).

This three half-day program includes sessions on course design and delivery, the course outline, assessments, teaching and learning activities, and more!

## TA training and resources

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall term Teaching Assistants? For an overview of TA training available through CTE, visit [Teaching Assistant Training: Information for Instructors and Coordinators](#). Some of the available training and resources include:

- [Preparing to TA at Waterloo](#) (LEARN module): A two-hour, self-paced, asynchronous module available for departments, Faculties, and course instructors to offer to their TAs. This module will be available from August 25 and throughout the Fall term.
- [Workshops by request](#): At your request, CTE staff can facilitate workshops as part of your departmental or Faculty TA Training, in the modality of your choice.
- [LEARN for TAs sessions](#): On September 15, CTE will offer a session for TAs to introduce them to various LEARN tools. [Registration](#) is now open for TAs.
- [Fundamentals of University Teaching Program](#): Each term, CTE offers workshops on a variety of teaching topics relevant to TAs and graduate students that can lead to a certificate of completion.
- [TA handbook](#): A resource of practical tips for TAs to refer to throughout their time as a TA.

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## LITE Seed Grants deadline: October 1 at 4pm

[Learning Innovation and Teaching Enhancement \(LITE\) Grants](#) fund projects that investigate innovative approaches to enhancing teaching and fostering deep student learning at Waterloo. Each grant is valued up to \$7,500. The application deadline for the Fall term is October 1 at 4:00pm, but applicants must meet with one of the grant program managers ([Annik Bilodeau](#) or [Brianna Bennett](#)) no later than **September 19 at 12:00pm (noon)**. We will start booking consultations in August.



# TEACHING AND LEARNING CONFERENCE

UNIVERSITY OF WATERLOO

We'd love to hear about the impact that the UWTL conferences have had on your teaching practice or sense of community. Please send your thoughts to [Mark Morton, Senior Educational Developer](#).

## Planning for UW TLC 2026: request for theme ideas and volunteers

Help shape the 2026 conference:

- share your theme and speakers ideas in our [theme suggestions short survey](#) by Friday, July 4, at 4:00 pm!

The UW TLC needs volunteers at all stages of its planning and delivery. Interested in working with us?

- Fill out this [UW TLC 2026 expression of interest to volunteer form](#). We'll be in touch!

## Video recordings from UW TLC 2025

**Keynote presentation: [Navigating Change in Higher Education in Times of Hyper-Complexity](#)**

Dr. Vanessa Andreotti, Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Education at the University of Victoria, explores how the stacked challenges facing higher education

Her thought-provoking presentation highlights some of the bold steps that universities must undertake to adapt to the changing landscape in which higher education exists.

### **Panel Session: Coordinate and Collaborate: How Academic Support Units Help Course Instructors Do More with Less**

- Jenna Hampshire, Angela Rooke, and Elise Vist, Student Success Office
- Clare Bermingham and Jirina K. Poch, Writing and Communication Centre

### **Panel Session: How do Graduate Student Instructors in STEM Navigate Challenges with the Help of their Mentors?**

- Rachel Beaver and Marcel Pinheiro, Biology
- Minzee Kim, Chelsea Uggenti, Zachary Van Oosten, and Michael Wallace, Statistics and Actuarial Science
- Jennifer Ellingham and Beth Weckman, Mechanical and Mechatronics Engineering

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## **New and/or timely resources**

### **What happens when students take charge of their learning?**

In a new video series about Student-Led Individually Created Courses (SLICCs), students reflect on how taking ownership of their learning helped them develop transferable skills, build confidence, and apply their experiences in meaningful ways, inside and outside the classroom.

*“...it is not necessarily focused on learning, but it's actually about learning how to learn. And I think that's much, much, much, more valuable because I think the more effectively you learn how to learn, the more effective effectively and quickly you can learn other things.” [Jakob – student]*

Hear what students have to say about engaging in an experiential, self-directed, and reflective course framework and how it has reshaped the way they approach learning.

video of Ben's experiences

Questions? Contact [sliccs@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:sliccs@uwaterloo.ca)

## New video available: [Engaging students through PebblePad workbooks](#)

In this session, Sandra Lopez-Rocha (Intercultural Learning Specialist, [International Experience Centre](#)) shares how she designed a PebblePad Workbook to engage students throughout the various components of the [GLIDE \(Global Learning, Intercultural Development, and Engagement\) Certificate](#). In addition, Diya Drabu (Student Success Office co-op student) provided her experience reviewing the workbook from a student perspective. Participants had the opportunity to review the workbook and discuss the logistics of implementation as well as engage in a discussion on how they might use PebblePad workbook features to engage their students in their own courses and programs.

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## Other opportunities

### [16th London International Conference in Canada](#)

Monday, July 14 - Wednesday July 16, online and at Conrad Grebel University College

Theme: Interdisciplinary Approaches and Innovations in Social Science Research.

Keynote Speaker: Annik Bilodeau, Centre for Teaching Excellence, University of Waterloo. Registration deadline July 1.

### [2025 Digital Pedagogy Institute](#)

Tuesday, August 12 - Thursday, August 14, online

Registration closes August 5.

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## News

### [2025 Teaching Awards recipients](#)

Congratulations to these excellent teachers!



[View this email in your browser](#)

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