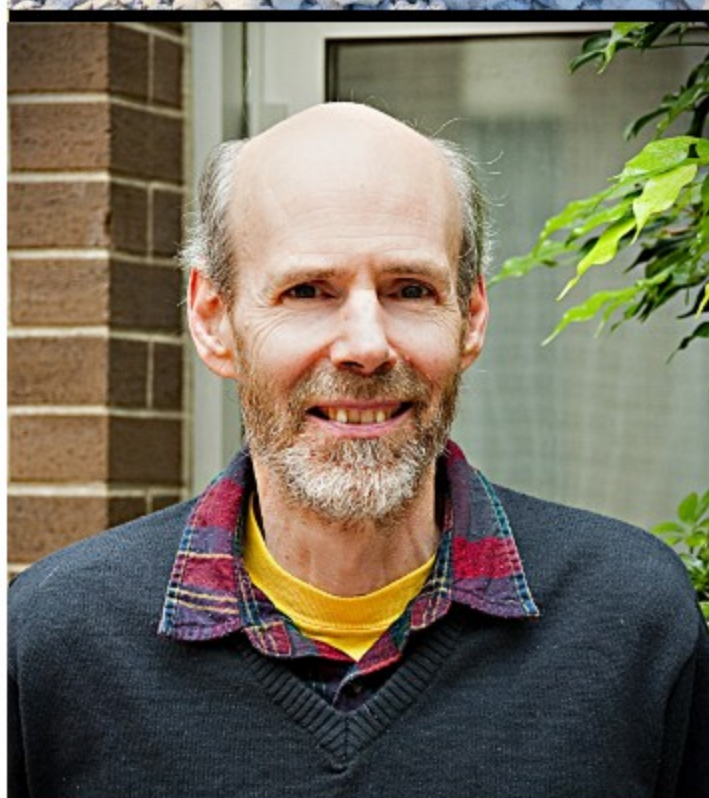


[View web version](#)

# In the Loop

The Monthly Newsletter from  
The Centre for Teaching Excellence  
at the University of Waterloo  
August 2024



## Sad news

We in CTE are very saddened by the passing of our dear colleague Paul Kates, who worked as CTE's Mathematics Faculty Liaison for more than twenty years, until his recent retirement in April.

Paul was tremendously appreciated and highly regarded by the instructors and staff he supported. Paul was unflappable, kind, learner-focused and learning-centred, and had a sense of humour that would come out at just the right time.

Paul's passion for supporting and promoting learning can be seen in this [blog post](#) from 2017 about mathematics books for young people.

## UPCOMING WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

Our complete roster of programming for the fall term is now available on our [Workshops and Events page](#), including:

- **Getting Started in Learn** with separate sessions on September 3, December 11, and December 16.
- **Integrated Accessibility Retreat** with separate sessions on December 9 and 11.
- **Getting Started with Peer Scholar** on December 12.

We'll also be offering two of our "signature" multi-day workshops:

The **Instructional Skills Workshop** (ISW) will be offered again on October 16–18. This three-day workshop is an intensive, collaborative, and experiential learning model that uses video-recorded micro-teaching and peer feedback sessions to support the teaching reflection and development of both new and experienced instructors. The ISW promotes participatory learning and community building and encourages examination of teaching practices, with feedback focused on the learning process rather than on the specific content of the lesson. If you have any questions about the ISW, please contact [Richard Li](#).

The **Facilitator Development Workshop** (FDW) is an intensive 40-hour workshop held over 5 days that prepares participants to deliver the Instructional Skills Workshop (ISW) to others. Led by FDW Trainers from the ISW Network, the core of the FDW is another ISW with the further skills of facilitation as the primary focus. If you have completed the ISW and are interested in becoming an ISW Facilitator, please contact [Richard Li](#) to register for the FDW.

Also, join us on October 24 and 25 for **multiple sessions on Student-Led Individually Created Courses** (SLICCs). The sessions will feature University of Edinburgh's Simon C. Riley. You can also see [examples of SLICCs](#) at Waterloo.

## Graduate Student Training and Resources

Is your department interested in providing training for your fall 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 27 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**: During the first month of term, CTE offers two sessions for TAs to introduce them to various LEARN tools.
- **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 completion certificate.
- **TA Handbook**: a resource of practical tips for TAs to refer to throughout their time as a TA

\*\*\*

The Centre for Extended Learning (CEL) is hosting a four-week, online certificate course for teaching entitled **Getting Ready to Facilitate Online Courses**. Running from September 23 to October 25, this course is suitable for any current or future Waterloo teaching assistants wishing to build skills and knowledge of best practices in facilitating fully online courses.

## NEW AND TIMELY RESOURCES

We continue to update and enhance our 150+ Teaching Tips including, most recently, these three:

- [Ten Tips for Effective Research Writing](#).
- [Universal Design: Course Design](#)
- [What is Universal Design?](#)

Also, this isn't a Teaching Tip, but it is a new online resource that CTE has developed in conjunction with the Centre for Extended Learning: [Guide to assessment in the Generative AI age](#)

The Copyright Advisory Committee has prepared a series of reminders on [keeping copyright in mind](#) as you use materials in your Fall term courses – everything from slides to course readings to audiovisual material. You can also use the [Copyright Decision Tool](#) or reach out to the [Services available](#) to help with copyright.

Lastly, [Accessibility at Waterloo](#) has developed a new resource on [ableism](#): the negative attitudes, beliefs and behaviors that devalue and discriminate against people with disabilities.

## CHANGES TO THE LITE GRANTS DEADLINES

CTE, in conjunction with the AVP-A, is pleased to announce the following changes to the LITE Seed Grant program. We believe that these changes will improve the profile of the program by elevating the competition and allowing researchers to take the time they need to complete their data analysis and dissemination.

Beginning in **2025**, there will be two rounds of LITE Seed grants per year (June 1 and October 1 deadlines) instead of the current three. The total funding available and the number of grants awarded remain the same, and up to nine \$7500 grants will be awarded per round.

The funding period will also be extended to 18 months (from the current 12 months) to facilitate the full completion of research projects. Applicants will also need to meet with CTE's research team for a consultation at least two weeks before the submission deadline.

## SAVE THE DATE: 2025 UW TEACHING & LEARNING CONFERENCE

This year's conference will take place on April 30 (online) and May 1 (on campus). The call for proposals will be disseminated in October, with proposals due in January, and registration will open in February. Stay tuned for this year's theme reveal soon!

And here's another date to save: the annual **Instructional Innovations Week** will be held October 21-25. Details will be forthcoming in the next issue of In the Loop!

## NEW CTE STAFF

We welcome Luxman Nirumalan and Charley Potter as our fall term co-op students. Charley's term will actually be a "re-term," as they worked with us back in 2023!

We also welcome [Mojdeh Shahidi](#) (Classical Studies), who is joining us as a TA Workshop Facilitator, and we welcome back [Toben Racicot](#) (English Language and Literature) to our Graduate Educational Developer team.

We'd also like to thank and say farewell to Giuseppe Femia (English Language and Literature), who was a TA Workshop Facilitator with CTE from September 2023-August 2024!



University of Waterloo  
200 University Avenue West, Waterloo, Ontario N2L 3G1

For more information, contact us at:  
[msc-comm@uwaterloo.ca](mailto:msc-comm@uwaterloo.ca)

[View Online](#) | [Update Preferences](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Privacy Policy](#)  
© 2024 University of Waterloo

