

**University of Toronto Mississauga**  
**Writing Development Initiative (WDI)**  
**Call for Proposals, 2025-2026**

The Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC) is pleased to invite proposals for the 2025/2026 Writing Development Initiative (WDI) program.

**Program Purpose**

As in previous years, a pool of funds is available to support projects that integrate writing instruction in core courses across the curriculum. We are inviting faculty members to submit proposals for projects that use writing to help students learn and engage with course content, and that enhance students' ability to write according to the requirements of their discipline. Successful WDI proposals typically request funding to support writing exercises, instruction in writing, additional writing assignments, and/or enhanced feedback on writing in a specific course. Some key areas of writing proficiency that can be targeted in a proposal include organization, editing and revision skills, coherence, sentence-level mechanics, and discipline-specific conventions for integrating sources.

The RGASC can advise faculty on how to develop their proposals and design writing support that meets the unique needs of their students.

**Submission Requirements**

Proposal forms can be downloaded at <https://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/faculty/writing-development-initiatives-wdi-program>. Please complete your Proposal Form and submit it by email to Michael Kaler at [michael.kaler@utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.kaler@utoronto.ca) by **11:00pm on April 17, 2025**.

Please note: We are in the process of revising both the methods used to assess the WDI and the final reporting requirements for funded projects (see below). During this transitional period, **we are requesting all projects currently receiving funding to submit a Proposal if they want to continue the project next year**. Projects reapplying for funding will be required to complete a brief report on last year's project as part of their proposal. See the proposal form for details.

This year (2025/2026) UTM's first-year writing course, [ISP100H5 Writing for University and Beyond](#), will be required by the Departments of Anthropology, Chemical and Physical Sciences, Historical Studies, Mathematical and Computational Sciences, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Visual Studies for admission to some of their Specialist and Major programs. Proposals for projects in any of these Departments will be expected to consider how the writing instruction or support they are proposing will complement or reinforce instruction offered in ISP100H5. For further details about ISP100H5, please contact Michael Kaler at [michael.kaler@utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.kaler@utoronto.ca).

## **Assessment and Final Report**

The RGASC is in the process of revising the methods it uses to assess WDI projects (more information to follow). During this transitional period, projects that currently receive WDI funding will not be required to submit a separate Final Report. Instead, they will be asked to complete the standard Proposal Form which includes dedicated sections for returning projects. See the Proposal Form for more details.

## **RGASC Support for WDI Projects**

The RGASC is pleased to make a variety of centralized resources and services available to faculty members and Departments participating in the WDI.

*WDI TA Training:* The RGASC offers a 7-hour WDI Writing TA Training Session for all TAs working with WDI-funded projects. The RGASC pays the TAs directly to attend this training, so the hours should not be included in the contracts and DDAH forms provided to TAs by the Department.

*Course-specific TA Training:* If additional TA training is required for a WDI-funded project, faculty can request funding for up to four hours of training per TA within their proposal. An RGASC Writing Specialist can help design and deliver this training.

*Dedicated Drop-In Appointments for Students:* The RGASC offers “dedicated drop-ins” for students in WDI-funded courses. These in-person appointments are offered approximately 48 hours before an assignment is due and provide students with an opportunity to consult with a Writing Instructors before they submit their writing for graded. These drop-in appointments are additional support above and beyond our regular face-to-face and online appointments and workshops, all of which are available to all UTM students.

*Faculty Support:* As always, RGASC Writing Specialists are available to assist instructors and Departments with assignment design, classroom instruction, and other activities that integrate writing into their curriculum.

## **Adjudication Process**

The amount of money allocated to a single project depends on a variety of factors, including but not limited to the number of students enrolled in the targeted course(s), viability of the project, and proposed budget. Please note as well that preference is given to projects embedded in courses that are part of a program of study in which emphasis on developing writing skills extends beyond the individual course.

Please note, if faculty are on leave or otherwise unavailable to teach a WDI-funded course, the project may be put on hold or not approved until the faculty member returns.

Funding recommendations for both new proposals (and renewals of existing proposals) are made by a committee consisting of representatives of the RGASC, the Library, and Departments from across the disciplinary spectrum. Decisions on funding will be made and communicated to applicants by June 30, 2025.

Proposals for new or repeating projects should be submitted by email to Michael Kaler at [michael.kaler@utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.kaler@utoronto.ca) by **11:00pm, April 17, 2025**.

- *File name should be: **2025\_WDI Proposal\_Your First Name\_Your Last Name**.*
- *Email subject should be: **2025\_WDI Proposal\_Your First Name\_Your Last Name**.*

For guidance in planning proposals or to learn more about other Departments' approaches to discipline-specific writing instruction, please see the selection of past successful proposals that has been posted at the WDI online archive (<http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/asc/faculty/writing-development-initiatives-wdi-program>). If you have any questions regarding the WDI or your specific proposal, please contact Michael Kaler at [michael.kaler@utoronto.ca](mailto:michael.kaler@utoronto.ca).