



20 April 2023

Dear Colleagues

Call for Proposals: Fund for Innovation and Research into Learning and Teaching (Finlo)
Closing date: 9 June 2023

In line with its new draft [Teaching-Learning policy \(2023\)](#), Stellenbosch University continues with the Fund for Innovation and Research into Learning and Teaching (Finlo), hereafter referred to as Finlo. The fund was established in 2005 to encourage a culture of innovation and research in teaching, learning and assessment (TLA) at the University. The fund provides an opportunity for lecturers to innovate and evaluate effective TLA practices and processes, and investigate TLA challenges, solutions and trends. It also provides a mechanism for the dissemination of results designed to improve the quality of TLA. Any lecturer, team of lecturers or centre responsible for TLA may apply.

Finlo is awarded twice a year by a subcommittee of the Committee for Teaching, Learning and Assessment (CTLA). Proposals are funded up to a maximum of R60 000.

SU academic and support staff are herewith invited to submit proposals for funding of research and innovation projects which aim to **enhance teaching, learning and assessment at SU**. The focus on reviewing, re-designing and renewing the academic offering encourages reflection and focus on transforming and improving curriculum, teaching, learning and assessment. The webpage for the Division for Learning and Teaching Enhancement provides [frequently asked questions](#) regarding some of these TLA topics and processes as well as the SU Game Changers (scroll to the bottom of the DLTE webpage).

The current June 2023 call invites proposals aligned to Academic Renewal as one of the SU Game Changers.

Academic Renewal was identified as one of the game changers by the Rectorate in 2021 and further refined at the Institutional and Executive Planning forums in 2022. During February 2023, Academic Renewal for a Transformative Student and Staff Learning Experience was further specified to contain a number of foci (click [here](#) for a graphic summary of all foci). Finlo proposals aligned, but not limited to the foci listed below are invited:

- **Programme renewal** – SU places a high premium on the quality of its academic offerings, including TLA practices, through continuous academic programme and module review, re-design and renewal to facilitate a transformative student learning experience. Addressing aspects of Decolonisation and/or Social Justice, inter-/multi-/trans-disciplinarity and globally networked learning¹ as part of programme renewal is crucial (refer to the new draft [Teaching-Learning Policy \(2023\)](#)). SU also aims to provide a continuum of learning opportunities for a diverse range of students. Given the unique post-pandemic context and the need for flexibility (pace, place, mode and scale), proposals could explore aspects and dimensions of this context in line with [Finlo guidelines and criteria](#). Hybrid learning offerings could be one such example. Click [here](#) to access the HL webpage for information.
- **Assessment** – Assessment is an integral part of the TLA process (SU Assessment Policy 2022). Critical consideration of assessment practices is important to enable learning and to support a transformative student experience. Academic Integrity (AI) and the use of learning technologies form part of this consideration, especially in the light of new Artificial Intelligence (AI) developments (e.g. ChatGPT). Alignment with the 2022 Assessment Policy is recommended (refer to the [SU Assessment Policy](#) and accompanying explanatory [Infographic](#)).

¹ Globally Networked Learning - Projects aligned to and emphasising the SU strategic vision of building effective collaborations through partnerships and networks with international institutions and contributing to excellence in learning, teaching and assessment. Examples include virtual exchanges or collaborative online international learning. Such projects may apply for additional funding and require additional consultations between the applicant and SU International.

- **Graduate attributes** – Society, universities and employers are currently facing unique situations, which will lead to a change in the profile of the desired graduates and employees. The VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, Ambiguous) challenges foreground the need to develop students' future-readiness which requires pertinent attention in determining future strategies in higher education. How can we integrate the current SU Graduate Attributes/new draft SU Graduate Profile in the academic offering – inside and outside of the classroom, to develop students as 21st-century citizens and for achieving their full potential upon graduation? The current SU Graduate Attributes and draft reviewed SU Graduate Profile are available [here](#).
- **Student success** – Student success is viewed holistically as part of a journey (from our first contact with prospective students until they graduate and embrace the role of alumni) where students are guided and supported on a transformative student experience (CHE 2014:ii and quoted in draft of revised T-L Policy). As a learning organisation with a learning-centred approach, SU guides and supports student success by offering the best opportunities and enablers for enhanced learning experiences. The Extended Curriculum Programme, peer-to-peer learning, [student feedback](#), [co-curriculum offerings](#) etcetera, are some examples of such enablers.

How to Apply for Finlo

To apply, complete the 2023 application form electronically [here](#). Only applications made on this electronic form will be considered. You can view an inactive version of the application form [here](#).

You should pay special attention to the guidelines and criteria for the application for Finlo funding, available [here](#).

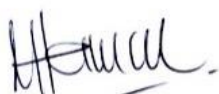
We are offering a Writing Retreat for Finlo recipients and applicants from 30 May to 2 June 2023. Applicants are encouraged to register for this opportunity to develop their proposals. The application form for the Writing Retreat is attached.

See [here](#) for the Regulations for the Management of the Fund for Innovation and Research in Learning and Teaching (Finlo). All applications are considered by the **Finlo Committee**:

- Dr Nicoline Herman, Director: Centre for Teaching and Learning, nherman@sun.ac.za
- Dr Jean Farmer, Finlo Project Manager, Advisor: Centre for Teaching and Learning, jeanlee@sun.ac.za
- Dr Anthea Jacobs, Advisor: Centre for Teaching and Learning, jacobsa@sun.ac.za
- Dr Taryn Bernard, Senior lecturer, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, tbernard@sun.ac.za
- Dr Jan Petrus Bosman, Director: Centre for Learning Technologies, jpbosman@sun.ac.za
- Prof Ashraf Kagee, Professor, Psychology Department, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, skagee@sun.ac.za
- Prof Elize Archer, Head of Simulation and Clinical Skills Unit, Acting Director, Centre for Health Professions Education, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, elizea@sun.ac.za
- Prof Shantelle Weber, Senior lecturer: Practical Theology and Missiology, Faculty of Theology, smweber@sun.ac.za
- Dr Gretha Steenkamp, Senior lecturer: School of Accountancy, Faculty of Economic and Management Sciences, gvn@sun.ac.za
- Dr Zelda Barends, Senior lecturer: Department of Curriculum Studies, Faculty of Education, zbarends@sun.ac.za
- Prof Robbie Pott, Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, rpott@sun.ac.za

For more information, contact Finlo at finlo@sun.ac.za.

Kind regards



Dr Nicoline Herman
Director: CTL
e: nherman@sun.ac.za