

Subject: Focus on Teaching: Writing Effective Reference Letters for Student Fellowships

Good afternoon,

Welcome to the 2014-15 academic calendar year. This teaching resource message, available online here <http://bit.ly/XuqsUK>, is sent on behalf of [Teaching and Learning Services](#).

August 25, 2014 (Volume 4, Number 2)



FEATURED EVENTS



[Writing Effective Reference Letters for Student Fellowships](#)

August 28, 10:00am-12:00pm

Professors are often asked by students to write reference letters for funding opportunities. What are the key elements of a “good” reference letter and what pitfalls should be avoided? Join us and learn strategies for writing effective letters.

To register, sign in and select GPS Graduate Workshop

[Register](#)



[For the Times They are A-Changin': McGill Biobanking Guidelines Revisited](#)

September 9, 9:00am-12:00pm

Do you work with Biobanks? Join us for this workshop and be part of the ongoing consultative process examining the revised McGill Faculty of Medicine “General Guidelines for Biobanks and Associated Databases”. This event will provide an opportunity to highlight where more specific policies and procedures may be needed, as well as to reflect on the future.

[Register](#)

RESOURCE OF THE WEEK



[Copyright at McGill](#)

Need help with copyright?

The Copyright Modernization Act gives the McGill community the opportunity to use many different resources to support teaching and learning. Questions about what you can use when teaching? Give us a shout at copyright@mcgill.ca and we'll help you find answers. Watch this space for a list of workshops and tutorials related to copyright and teaching!

UPCOMING EVENTS



[University Teaching in a Time of Globalization: Language Challenges and Opportunities](#)

September 22, 12:00 - 1:15pm

If you teach in your second language or interact with students from a variety of language backgrounds, join us for an interactive talk about how to address these oral communication challenges. Learn what some of the related research says and share strategies for fostering productive teaching and learning experiences in a multilingual learning environment.

[Register](#)

[Safer Spaces Workshop: Understanding Discrimination](#)

September 30, 2:00pm- 4:30pm

During this session, participants will examine ways that unconscious or unintended bias can work its way into everyday interactions; they will analyze culture and identity to understand how bias forms and impacts relationships, and they will work through practical scenarios to develop language, responses, and strategies for addressing inequality and subtle bias in the office and classroom



settings.

[Register](#)

ANNOUNCEMENTS



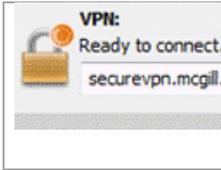
Lecture Recording

The lecture recording service has been improved with two new features: viewing recording statistics and an integrated student /instructor interface. Additionally, the sign-up procedure has been simplified. [Follow these instructions in the IT Knowledgebase](#) to sign up to record your lectures and make them available to your students.



[WebCT access ending for Summer 2010 and earlier](#)

WebCT is being phased out. **Friday, September 26, 2014** is the last date to request access to courses from **Summer 2010 and earlier**. WebCT will be fully shut down on **September 30, 2016**. Click the link above to the WebCT Access Request Form.



[McGill has a new, more secure VPN](#)

McGill IT Services now has a new, more secure Virtual Private Network (VPN) to allow faculty, staff and students access to internal McGill systems and resources from outside the McGill network. This VPN, [securevpn.mcgill.ca](#), will replace [inside.mcgill.ca](#). For instructions on setting up a new VPN connection, click the link above.



[Course Evaluations](#)

Help is available for interpreting your course evaluation results from 2014. TLS has developed [guidelines](#) to help you interpret your course evaluation results. Questions? Write to: mercury.info@mcgill.ca.

LEARN MORE ABOUT



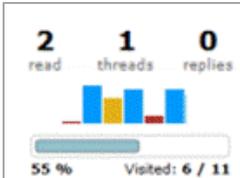
[Teaching & Learning Technologies Workshops/Consultations](#)

Need help with, or advice about, using technology to enhance your teaching? Teaching and Learning Services and IT Services offer custom group workshops and individual consultations for instructors, teaching assistants and staff. Click [here](#) to view suggested topics and request for a consultation.



[Supervision: Graduate and Postdoctoral Support Website](#)

The new Supervision website offers over 40 pages of research-based practical advice and guidance on the supervisory relationship. [Learn how to avoid common problems in supervision and needless delays in degree completion.](#)



[How are your students using myCourses?](#)

Watch this short video to learn about the user progress and tool usage reports available to instructors in myCourses. Find out: How often your students visit your course? Which of the course files they are looking at? Who has been active in the class discussions?



[Recommended Mobile Apps](#)

- [PressReader](#): Do you enjoy reading newspapers? McGill Library is pleased to offer over 2,300 full-content newspapers from more than 100 countries in 55+ languages in just one app!
- [BrowZine](#): Access scholarly journals in a browsable format on your iOS or Android device. Easily find, read, and monitor scholarly journals available from

holdings at the McGill Library and Open Access publishers.



[Scholarly Writing Workshops, Courses and more for Graduate Students](#)

[Graphos](#), the McGill Writing Centre's new graduate initiative, offers [workshops](#), [courses](#), and [peer writing groups](#). Graphos complements the MWC's [tutorial service](#). Please inform your supervisees about these new opportunities for improving academic writing.

PARTNERS

[Content and Collaboration Solutions \(CCS\)](#) | [IT Customer Services \(ICS\)](#) | [McGill Library](#) | [Social, Equity and Diversity Education Office \(SEDE\)](#) | [Office for Students with Disabilities \(OSD\)](#)

If you have comments about this e-bulletin, or require additional information about the above, please contact us at teaching.tls@mcgill.ca or [514-398-6648](tel:514-398-6648). Teaching and Learning Services, McLennan Library Building, MS 12.