GENERATOR at Sheridan

Dear full-time faculty colleagues,

I am delighted to share that spring/summer research time will once again be provided to allow full-time faculty to engage in various research activities in 2026. Further details about the process can be found in the attached pages.

It is an ideal opportunity for faculty members to work on active research projects, including Generator Growth Grants and scholarship of teaching and learning (SOTL) research, as well as undertake dissemination activities, pre-research work like literature reviews, project scoping with external partners, and grant writing. Additionally, the GSO can access grant writing services to further assist faculty members in writing proposals to external funding agencies.

As the details of the spring/summer research time process may vary across Faculties and departments, including specific deadlines, faculty members should consult with their Associate Dean or Manager to plan accordingly.

Since the launch of the program, spring/summer research time has been accessed more than 338 times. Collectively, the efforts of those faculty yielded funding applications, presentations, creative works, publications, white papers, new collaborations, and much more.

We are excited to see the remarkable achievements that 2026 will bring!

Dr. Vicki Mowat
Dean of Research

GENERATOR at Sheridan

Spring/Summer Research Time (*updated for 2026*)

Research interests and plans should form part of regular workload discussion between faculty members and their Associate Dean (AD)/managers. Reflecting the range of disciplines and approaches at Sheridan, spring/summer research time activities will vary widely. Some examples have been provided in the Appendix, but plans and any specific deliverables will be agreed between faculty members and their AD/manager.

Spring/summer research time can be requested for the spring/summer semester by full-time faculty who have completed all stages of the Teaching and Learning Academy.

Teaching faculty (i.e. faculty who are issued a SWF) who request spring/summer research time and have proposed an appropriate plan will receive a constraint for one day a week and will be assigned 7.4 complementary hours on their SWF. Where there is both faculty member interest and scheduling capacity, two days a week may be assigned to faculty who completed one day a week in a previous year. If a faculty member has grant-funded course release in the spring/summer and requests spring/summer research time, the course release hours will be applied against the spring/summer research time.

Teaching faculty who wish to access spring/summer research time will need to contact their AD/manager so that a constraint can be requested. Constraints will be assigned by the timetabling system to optimize class scheduling. Faculty members will not be able to request a specific day of the week. Although some faculty may be assigned two days a week of spring/summer research time, constraints will only be applied for one day.

Non-teaching faculty (i.e. faculty who are not issued a SWF) will arrange time and constraints for spring/summer research time in discussion with their AD/Manager. Because non-teaching faculty may take vacation at other times of the year, they may be assigned an equivalent amount of spring/summer research time in another semester.

At the end of the term, faculty will be asked to complete a brief online survey to describe the work they did, the outcomes and any next steps. These will be shared with their AD/manager and the Generator Support Office to help in our efforts to better recognize and celebrate research, to facilitate external metrics reporting, and to identify potential opportunities for collaboration or research funding. Any publications, presentations or other public documentation of the research should acknowledge Sheridan affiliation. In the event a faculty member does not complete their planned research work, their AD/manager will have the discretion to restrict access to research time in the future. All of Sheridan's policies and procedures for research apply to spring/summer research time. Access to space, equipment, research funding or other resources will need to be pursued through the usual channels. Faculty can access a range of supports for research through the Generator Support Office.

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APPENDIX – Examples of potential research activities

Through research, we aim to contribute to the knowledge base or make a cultural contribution. Research activities will have an element of inquiry/investigation/experimentation that will lead to new insights by generating knowledge or applying knowledge in a new way.

Examples of research work include, but are not limited to:

- preparing applications for external grant funding
- working on a Growth Grant project
- working on an externally-funded project
- collaborating on a research project led by another researcher (at Sheridan or elsewhere)
- developing an REB protocol
- conducting a literature review
- exploring the impact of a new instructional approach or methodology
- formal analysis of data on teaching and/or student learning in course(s)
- developing or directing a performance
- preparing an exhibition
- experimenting as part of the performing or visual arts creation process
- working on a creative writing project
- data collection/analysis
- proof of concept, prototype development or other research activity with an industry partner
- exploring innovative applications of technology
- drafting a publication or writing a scholarly article
- preparing a research presentation or poster
- serving as a peer reviewer for a publication or funding agency
- developing collaborations for future research work

Research may be subject to critical review and should be effectively shared to allow for the use or exchange of the outputs in industry, community or the field/profession – and beyond. Ultimately, we seek to reflect the outcomes and learnings from research work in our curriculum and academic programs.

Curriculum development, routine website development, and any paid work for another organization are not eligible for spring/summer research time.