

Guidelines for Innovation in Teaching Awards

Nature of the Awards

Up to three awards will be made each year to individual academic staff and/or teams of staff headed by an academic. Awards will be extended to staff judged to be outstanding innovators in education.

Where possible, one of the individual awards will be made to an early career academic with no more than seven years' experience teaching in a higher education setting (this should be interpreted as seven calendar years and includes all tutoring, part-time teaching, and teaching at Flinders and at other higher education institutions).

Each winner of an individual or team award will be presented with a certificate at the most appropriate College event. Recipients of the individual award will receive a prize of \$2000. Recipients of the team award will receive \$2000 to be shared amongst the team. The money will be used for professional development to support the enhancement of the recipients' own teaching of learning or teaching within the College.

This award aligns with Vice-Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Award and constitutes a preparatory step towards it.

Recipients will be expected to contribute to educational development within the university and College by sharing their experience and practice with academic and professional staff.

Purpose

The purposes of the awards are to:

- Recognise agile, responsive, and enterprising teaching practices in which staff and students are committed to excellence.
- Encourage teaching innovation with approaches to teaching and learning that have a paramount focus on student success.
- Promote Flinders University as an international leader in educational innovation, advanced learning technologies and learning analytics.

Eligibility for the Awards

Award recipients who are individual applications or leaders of team applications will not be eligible for re-nomination within the same category until five years have expired following the year of the award. Members of a successful team who were not team leaders or joint leaders are not affected by this restriction on eligibility provided that the re-nomination does not substantially replicate their winning application.

Staff may not nominate for both a CHASS Innovation in Teaching Award and a CHASS Award for Excellence in Teaching within the same year. Staff may not nominate for more than one award in a category in the same year.

Individual applicants

All academic staff (continuing, contract, sessional, academic status, teaching specialist or balanced) are eligible to apply if they have had at least two consecutive years of sustained teaching experience at Flinders University when the application is submitted.

The nomination must centre on an initiative started **at least 18-months before the submission of the application and must demonstrate measurable outcomes.**

Team applicants

Teams will comprise academic staff (continuing, contract, sessional, academic status, teaching specialist or balanced) and/or professional staff (continuing, contact and or casual), who have held roles in teaching and learning and/or student support. The team will be led by an academic staff member. At least one team member will have had at least two consecutive years of sustained teaching experience at Flinders University when the application is submitted.

The nomination must centre on an initiative started **at least 18-months before the submission of the application and must demonstrate measurable outcomes.**

Award Criteria

The awards recognise recent responsive and sustainable educational initiatives that address **one** of six key strategic objectives of the university and exemplify a culture of innovation and excellence:

1. Deliver a richly interactive and personalised approach to learning with a paramount focus on student success.
2. Be an international leader in educational innovation, advanced learning technologies and learning analytics.
3. Develop enterprising graduates equipped with the skills required for success in the knowledge economy.
4. Engage students as partners in the co-creation of a learning experience that inspires achievement.
5. Deliver and commit to broadening the reach of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content so that students encounter and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural content as an integral part of their course of study.

The key component of the application is a written submission addressing the chosen strategic objective, as it pertains to one of the following key areas:

- a. **Innovation in curriculum design** which includes structures, underpinning educational/ pedagogical theory, assessment, and approach to content.
- b. **Innovation in teaching practice and delivery** including in relation to online, partial on campus and/or on campus.

In assessing nominations against the chosen criteria, the Committee will take into account the:

- Use of SOTL literature to inform the approach and practices;
- Extent to which the claims for innovation are supported by formal and informal evaluation, including peer and student evaluations of teaching;
- Creativity, imagination, or innovation, irrespective of whether the approach involves traditional learning environments or technology-based developments; and
- Evidence of the impact and sustainability of the work as outlined in the statement and the references.

Application Content and Presentation Guidelines

Applicants must:

1. Submit an application of no more than a total of four pages (A4, single spaced, minimum 11-point font Arial or Helvetica, at least a 2 cm margin all around) containing the following:
 - Citation (max 40 words)
 - Include the chosen strategic objective, the discipline or field of work and the distinctive contribution of the individual or team.
 - Context/Summary
 - Describe the landscape in which you teach – the challenges, dynamics, obstacles, opportunities – and what your practice contributes.
 - Development and implementation of the innovation
 - Describe the project or practice and provide a rationale for why it was required.
 - Innovation in a disciplinary context
 - Describe the context in which the innovation sits from a disciplinary perspective, with reference to why it is seen as innovative within that context.
 - Measurable outcomes
 - Provide evidence of impact on students, including the methods by which impact was determined.
 - A short statement outlining how the award money will be used.

2. Include attachments (A4, single spaced, minimum 11-point font Arial or Helvetica, at least a 2 cm margin all around) of the following:
 - A short teaching-focused Curriculum Vitae of the individual applicant or the Team Leader (limited to **two pages**);
 - Two references that are directly relevant to your application and attest to your contribution to teaching. If the nomination relates to a team, the references should apply to the team (limited to **one page each**);
 - Completed and signed pro-forma Application Form and Checklist, which must include the signed endorsement of the relevant Teaching Program Director(s) (it is only the signature endorsing the application that is required; additional comment or evaluation from the Teaching Program Director(s) is neither required nor expected). **This form should be inserted at the front of the submission.**

Assessment of Applications

Applications will be assessed by a committee comprising of:

- Dean (Education) or nominee (Chair);
- Teaching Program Director or nominee from each Teaching Program Area;
- One past recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Awards; and
- One student representative (with Student Representative Advisory Committee membership).

The committee will assess the applications using the [AAUT Assessment Matrix](#).

Submission of applications

Applications for the 2023 CHASS Innovation in Teaching Awards will close on **Tuesday 8 July 2025** at 4:30pm.

Applications are to be submitted via email to CHASS.DeanEd@flinders.edu.au.

Applications submitted past the deadline will not be accepted.

Further information may be obtained from the Dean, Education or the Director of the CHASS Learning and Teaching Academy.

Notification of the Awards

Notification of the results of the Committee's deliberations will be made after they have been approved by the Dean, Education of the College. Successful applicants will be encouraged and supported to apply for the VC's Excellence in Teaching Awards if they are eligible.