Guidelines for Portfolios Learning and Teaching Academy Innovation in Teaching / Learning and Teaching Support 2025

Due date: 31 July 2025

Purpose:

The Innovation in Teaching / Learning and Teaching Support Award is designed to:

- Recognise and reward:
    - agile, responsive, and enterprising teaching practices
    - OR agile, responsive, and enterprising practices in supporting teaching.
    - OR agile, responsive, and enterprising student learning support.

    that are committed to excellence.

- Encourage innovative practices:
    - in teaching
    - OR that support teaching.
    - OR that support student learning.
- Promote Flinders University as an international leader in educational innovation, advanced learning technologies and learning analytics.

Award Details:

- **Number of Awards:** One award annually.

- **Value:** The award is valued at $1,000. Recipients of an individual award will receive a prize of $1000. Recipients of a team award will receive $1000 to be shared amongst the team.

- **Use of Award:** The award funds are payable into a university account subject to the same rules as a consulting account (i.e. requiring use for "university related activity"). Possible uses may include conference attendance, purchase of resources to assist in preparation and delivery of teaching and learning materials / support materials, purchase of books, journals, or professional development activities. Recipients will be expected to contribute to professional learning within the Portfolios Learning and Teaching Academy by sharing their experience and communicating this with other staff. The specific nature of that contribution can be negotiated with each award winner.

Eligibility:

- **Teams:**

    - Must be headed by a Portfolio staff member (continuing, contract, sessional, or academic status) with a full-time equivalence of 0.4 or greater.

    - Teams must consist of at least two members and may include casual/part-time staff and academic or professional staff.

    - At least one team member must have substantial experience within Flinders University (including Flinders University Academy) of at least one year, in one or more of the following areas - teaching experience, learning and teaching support (note: this might include indirect support of these areas such as learning technology or library services).

    - Previous team award recipients are not eligible for re-nomination within the same category for one year.

- **Individuals:**

    - Must be Portfolio staff (continuing, contract, sessional, or academic status) with at least one year of substantial experience within Flinders University (including Flinders University Academy) in one or more of the following areas - teaching experience, learning and teaching support (note: this might include indirect support of these areas such as learning technology or library services).

    - Previous individual award recipients are not eligible for re-nomination within the same category for one year.

- The nomination must centre on an initiative started **within the last 18-months before the submission of the application and must have demonstrated measurable outcomes**.
- Staff may not nominate for both an Innovation and an Excellence award in the same year.
- If an award cannot be conferred in this category, then two awards may be awarded in the Excellence category for that year.

Nominations:

- Nominations can be peer-nominated, self-nominated, student-nominated, Supervisor, Head of Portfolio nominated.

- The relevant Head of Portfolio must endorse all nominations.

Selection Criteria for the Innovation in Teaching / Learning and Teaching Support Award

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. Embed research and critical thinking as core skills for every Flinders graduate.
6. 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.

Nominations should address a chosen strategic objective pertaining to the following key areas:

a) Innovation in curriculum design or curriculum support which may include structures, underpinning educational/ pedagogical theory, assessment, approach to content, or process.
b) Innovation in teaching practice and delivery or learning and teaching support including in relation to online, partial on campus and/or on campus.

Applications:

- Submissions can be in written or video format. Videos should be 3 – 5 minutes in length. Written applications should be no more than four pages in total (A4, single spaced, minimum 11-point font Arial or Helvetica, 2.5 cm margin all around)

- Applications must include:

  o A citation. Include the portfolio area/discipline of field of work and the distinctive contribution of the nominee or team (maximum 25 words).

  o A biographical statement. Who the nominee or team is.

- A context statement. Describe the landscape within which the innovation occurred – the challenges, dynamics, obstacles, opportunities – and what the innovation contributed.

- A statement addressing the selection criteria.

- Up to four pages of supporting evidence (including signed Endorsement from the Head of Portfolio).

Applicants should address the following elements in their submission:

- 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 or portfolio 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.

Recognition and Expectations:

- Award winners will receive a Certificate of Innovation in Teaching or Learning and Teaching Support.

- Recipients are expected to contribute to professional learning within the Portfolio by sharing their experiences and skills with other portfolio staff.

- Recipients are encouraged to apply for higher-level awards such as the Vice-Chancellor's Teaching Innovation Awards and national teaching awards.

Assessment of Application:

The Selection Committee will be appointed by the Portfolios Learning and Teaching Academy Steering Committee and will normally include representatives from across the central portfolios and student representatives. The Selection Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Pro Vice-Chancellor (Learning and Teaching Innovation) for approval.

In assessing the nominations, the Committee will consider the:

- extent to which the claims for the innovations have been developed and implemented.
- extent to which the claims for the innovations have provided disciplinary context.
- evidence of the impact that the innovations had for students.

Any problems?

If you have any problems or further questions, please contact Cassandra Hood.

Award applications should be submitted electronically by close of business Thursday 31 July 2025 to portfolios.LTA@flinders.edu.au