

Vice-Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Awards Rules and Eligibility

Established: 13 September 2018

Updated: 12 June 2025

Responsible Officer: Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students)

1. Title of the Award: Vice-Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Awards

2. Nature of the Awards

- a. Up to six awards will be made each year. These awards will be made to teams of staff (headed by an academic) and/or to individual academic staff.
- b. Each winner of an award (either team or individual) will be presented with a Certificate of Innovation in Teaching. Award winners will receive a prize of \$2,000 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, purchase of books, journals, or professional development activities.
- c. Recipients are recognised as leaders of innovation in their field and are strongly encouraged to share their good practice with the university, their College, the Learning and Teaching Academy and external learning and teaching forums. They will receive support and encouragement to apply for national teaching awards and Advance HE Fellowships.
- d. Submission of an application must include signed permission for the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching to use the submitted video for promotion and celebration of innovation at Flinders University.

3. Purposes of the Awards

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.

4. Eligibility for the Awards

a. Individual applicants

Individual awards will be awarded to members of staff judged to be outstanding contributors to teaching and learning innovation. The nomination must centre on an initiative that commenced within the preceding 2 year period.

Eligibility for individual awards encompasses:

- All academic staff (continuing, contract, sessional, academic status, teaching specialist or balanced) with at least three years of sustained teaching experience with the University.

b. Team applicants

Team awards will be awarded to teams of staff responsible for teaching and learning and/or student support judged to be outstanding. The nomination must centre on an initiative that commenced within the preceding 2 year period. Eligibility for team awards:

- Teams will comprise academic staff (as defined in 4a) and/or professional staff, who have held roles in teaching and learning and/or student support. At least one team member will have three years or more of substantial teaching experience with the University.
- c. Award winners will not be eligible for re-nomination within the same category for 5 years.
- d. Nominees may not nominate for both a Vice-Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Award and a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching within the same year.
- e. Recipients of a Vice-Chancellor's Innovation in Teaching Award will not be eligible to nominate for a Vice-Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching for 3 years.

5. The Selection Committee

The Selection Committee for the awards will consist of the following members:

- Vice-Chancellor or nominee (Chair)
- One member nominated by each of the College Executive Deans (to serve for a two-year term of office and to be eligible for reappointment)
- One external member with expertise in teaching and learning, nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor (to serve for a two-year term and to be eligible for reappointment)
- Student member nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor (to serve for a one-year term and to be eligible for reappointment)
- A previous award winner nominated by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students) on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor (to serve for a one-year term and to be eligible for reappointment).

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Students), on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor and Selection Committee, will call for and receive nominations; the Selection Committee will examine the nominations and supporting information and make recommendations to the Vice-Chancellor in relation to the recipients of the awards. Academic Senate will be informed of the recipients of the awards.

6. Notification of the Awards

Notification of the results of the Committee's deliberations will be made after they have been approved by the Vice-Chancellor. Certificates will be presented at an appropriate ceremony.

7. Applicant Information

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.

The key component of a nomination is a 3-5 minute video addressing the chosen strategic objective, pertaining to 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. At least one award will be made to teaching innovations that involve online or partial on campus delivery.

Applicants should address the following elements in their video 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 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.

Applicants are encouraged to get support from staff in the Learning and Teaching Innovation portfolio in developing their application. Learning Designers and eLearning Support Officers should be consulted where innovations include online learning tools and design.

The awards have been divided into two streams: one for individuals, the other for teams. The selection criteria upon which each category will be judged, however, are the same.