

Vice-Chancellor's Staff Excellence Awards

2024 Vice-Chancellor's Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Up to 8 of \$5000 each – Nominations due by 4:00pm, Wednesday 19 June, 2024

Guidelines for nomination

The Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning recognise and reward the diverse contributions made by individuals and teams to the quality of student learning. Citations are awarded for a range of contributions to student learning, both direct and indirect. They are awarded to those who have made a significant contribution to the quality of student learning in a specific area of responsibility over a sustained period, whether they are academic staff, general staff, sessional staff or institutional associates. Multi-disciplinary award applications are also accepted.

Staff Eligibility

The Vice-Chancellor's Learning and Teaching Awards are intended to encourage, recognise and reward excellence and achievement in all forms of teaching and/or in innovations, initiatives and services that contribute in diverse ways to student learning. They are available to individuals and teams of academic and/or professional ongoing, contract or sessional staff. Nominees must be employed at ECU at the time of their nomination and receipt of the VC Award. The application must pertain to work and impact that has been sustained at ECU for no less than three years (two years for early career). All award winners will demonstrate ECU's values of Integrity; Respect; Rational Inquiry; Personal Excellence; and Courage.

Nominees may only apply for one Award in any one year, with the exception that they may submit one individual application and one team application. Applicants who have received an award in the previous three years are ineligible to apply for the same award category, but can apply for a different award category. Unsuccessful nominees are eligible to re-apply.

Expectations of Award Recipients

Please note, as a condition of entry all applicants may be requested by the Director, Centre for Learning and Teaching (or nominee), or Director, People and Culture (or nominee) to showcase their application on the university website as an ECU learning and teaching exemplar. Additionally, if successful, applicants may be asked to participate in the delivery of professional development activities aimed at the promotion and encouragement of quality learning and teaching practices at ECU.

Categories

There are eight categories:

1. Early Career – open to staff with no more than four years' experience teaching in higher education institutions
2. Natural and Physical Sciences, Agriculture, Environmental and Related Studies
3. Engineering, Information Technology, Architecture and Building
4. Health
5. Education

6. Business, Management and Commerce
7. Society and Culture
8. Creative Arts

Assessment Criteria

Nominations will be assessed on the evidence provided in response to **one** of the following four criteria:

1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn; e.g.

Fostering student development by stimulating curiosity and independence in learning

Participating in effective and empathetic guidance and advice for students

Assisting students from equity and other demographic subgroups to participate and achieve success in their courses

Encouraging student engagement through the enthusiasm shown for learning and teaching

Inspiring and motivating students through effective communication, presentation and interpersonal skills

Enabling others to enhance their approaches to learning and teaching

Developing and/or integrating assessment strategies to enhance student learning

Provision of support services or programs that improve the student experience and enable learning

2. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field; e.g.

Developing and presenting coherent and imaginative resources for student learning

Implementing research-led approaches to learning and teaching

Demonstrating up-to-date knowledge of the field of study in the design of the curriculum and the creation of resources for learning

Communicating clear objectives and expectations for student learning

Providing support to those involved in the development of curricula and resources

Contributing professional expertise to enhance curriculum or resources

3. Effective assessment practices that bring about improvements in student learning, may have a focus on academic integrity or digital solutions, or any assessment strategies that bring about change; e.g.

Showing advanced skills in assessment/alternative assessment practices

Using a variety of assessment strategies to bring about change

Adapting assessment methods to different contexts and diverse student needs and learning styles

Contributing professional expertise to the field of assessment in order to improve program design and delivery

Dissemination and embedding of good practice identified through assessment

Evaluating the quality of the assessment practices

4. Innovation or leadership that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience; e.g.

Participating in and contributing to professional activities related to learning and teaching

Innovations in service and support for students; coordination, management and leadership of courses and student learning

Conducting and publishing research related to teaching

Demonstrating leadership through activities that have broad influence on the profession

Providing innovative learning and teaching for different contexts, including technology enhanced environments, for large and small class sizes and/or to meet the needs of a diverse student cohort

Influencing the overall academic, social and cultural experience of higher education

Evidencing your contribution

With a focus on the chosen criterion, nominations will be judged on the extent to which the nominee's contribution has:

- impacted on student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience;
- gained recognition from colleagues, the institution, and/or the broader community;
- shown creativity, imagination or innovation, irrespective of whether the approach involves traditional learning environments or technology-based development;
- drawn on the scholarly literature on teaching and learning to inform the development of initiatives, programs and/or practice; and
- been sustained for a period of no less than three years (two years for early career), not including time taken for development or trial of any activity.

The application needs to be strongly supported by a diverse range of evidence. It is recommended that the qualitative and quantitative data are from an extensive range of formal and informal sources, including nominee's self-reflection, student learning, student experience and evidence of institutional, peer and stakeholders' interactions.

Nomination guide and structure

Nominations for Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning should comprise of the following:

- A. **Statement of claims** against one of the four assessment criteria which describes the nominee's contribution to student learning in line with the selected criterion and provides evidence to support claims. This section is **limited to four A4 pages comprising** all of the following elements:
- **Proposed Citation** of up to 25 words, which includes the discipline or field of work and the distinctive contribution of the nominee or team. The concise Citation description must start with 'For...' and:
 - be written in the third person
 - avoid jargon and use plain English
 - inform the broadest possible audience about the work of the nominee.
- Please note that hyphenated words will be counted as one word.
- **Overview** of the nominee's teaching and its context (in the first person);

- **Statement** addressing **the selected criterion** (include criterion heading) with supporting evidence about impact on student learning (do not include hyperlinks – all evidence must be woven throughout the narrative); and
- **Reference list:** nominees should use their preferred recognised reference style throughout and include a reference list within the four pages. Links to reference lists online will not be reviewed by assessors.

- B. **Two letters of reference** of no more than **one A4 page each**, including one who is the nominee's line manager or at a higher level.
- C. **Statement of contribution (for team nominations).** Team nominations must include one A4 page which explains the role and indicates the percentage contribution of team members (limited to team members with 10 per cent or higher), in addition to the team information included within the nomination form.

Formatting requirements

Please ensure that all documents are A4 page size, fonts are 11 point Arial or Calibri, margins are at least 2cm all around, there is clear definition between paragraphs, and page numbers and section headings are included. The documents should be combined and saved in one single PDF document.

Submitting the nomination

The nomination should be submitted via the **online nomination form** at www.ecu.edu.au/staff-awards, by the due date with the nomination details at A-C above uploaded to the online form in **one (1) single pdf attachment**.

Line Manager and School Executive Dean endorsement will be requested by People and Culture after submission.

Selection panel

The composition of the panel may be reviewed from time-to-time to ensure it remains relevant and contemporary, and will normally include:

- The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education) or their nominee as Chair;
- Associate Deans (Teaching and Learning) or their nominees;
- Manager, Teaching Quality, or their nominee;
- Previous winners or assessors at the institutional or national level,
- External Reviewer/s, including institutional or national assessors from a different university; award winners from a different university; etc.; and,
- A non-voting Executive Officer.

Additional panel members may also be drawn from:

- a representative from the Academic Staff Promotions Committee; and/or
- a staff member from People and Culture.

The Selection Panel has the authority to seek further evidence from such persons as it deems necessary to evaluate the nominations.

The Selection Panel reserves the right not to recommend an award if, in its assessment, there is no nomination of sufficient merit.

Selection Process

The Learning and Teaching Awards selection process is designed to fulfil three key functions:

1. facilitate decisions that are fair, valid, reliable, and transparent;
2. provide quality feedback to all applicants, enabling them to improve future applications; and
3. maximise the number of people who may contribute as assessors and thereby have the opportunity to learn about the process themselves.

The Vice-Chancellor will review the recommendations from the Awards Selection Committee and decide upon the winners. The Vice-Chancellor's decision will be final.

If the selection committee does not believe the criteria has been met to recommend a category winner, they may recommend that no Award be made.

The winners will be formally advised of the outcome. A copy of the certificate will be filed in the respective personal files.

Method of Payment

Nominated staff must choose a preferred option for payment as part of their nomination prior to the event. An email will be sent prior to the event in November to request the preferred option for payment:

- Cash lump sum payment (paid through the payroll system and subject to income tax at the employee's marginal tax rate); or
- Payment credited directly to your UniSuper Superannuation Account as a pre-tax contribution. If nominees select this option they may wish to seek personal financial advice as there are caps on the amount you can contribute to your super each financial year that, if exceeded, may result in additional tax implication; or
- Nominated ECU project /research/school account to be paid into an ECU account of choice. The prize monies must be used for work related expenditure and cannot be redistributed among team members for personal use.
 - Nominees are advised to consult their respective Finance Manager (for School Staff) or Business Manager (for Service Centre Staff) before electing to nominate an ECU account. There are limitations for time period in which prize monies are to be spent and this will vary from area to area. These funds will be allocated to your school/centre in January of the following year and must be used by the end of that year.
 - Work related expenditure does not normally attract Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT). However, if FBT does apply to the expenditure, it will form part of the award amount so the team members would only be eligible to spend the net-of-FBT amount. Nominees are advised to consult their respective Business Manager or School Finance Team if unsure.

For team based nominations, prize monies will be divided between team members equally unless specified at time of nomination to the People and Culture Executive Officer.

Presentation of Awards

The Vice-Chancellor will host an event that provides formal and public recognition of the respective achievements and excellence of our staff, at which the Vice-Chancellor's Staff Awards will be presented.

Winners may be asked to present at various public events. Event photography may be utilised to promote the awards.