



**UNSW**  
SYDNEY

# **UNSW Awards for Teaching**

## **2021 information session**

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*Please note that this session is being recorded.*



# Session overview

- Overview of awards
- How to write a strong application
- How to apply
- Tips from 2020 recipients
- Q&A

# Overview of awards

1. Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Teaching Excellence
2. Vice-Chancellor's Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching
3. Vice Chancellor's Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning
4. Vice-Chancellor's Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Wellbeing
5. Vice-Chancellor's Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning
6. The Heinz Harant Award for Teaching Innovation

# Awards for Teaching Excellence

Open to academic staff (including sessional) with three years of service, (two years for early career) at UNSW. Individuals or teams.

Address **all four award criteria** below:

1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.
2. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field.
3. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning.
4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience.

Number of awards = 2 (1 x early career)

# Award for Sustained Excellence in Teaching (new in 2021)

Open to individual academics (including sessional) with at least five years of service at UNSW.

Address **all four award criteria** below:

1. Demonstrated sustained impact on student learning and the student experience, evidenced through peers, students, and external bodies.
2. Development of curricula, engaging resources and/or learning environments that reflect a command of the field.
3. Continued commitment to reflective improvement in teaching, evidenced by evaluation practices that enhance teaching and learning.
4. Cultivates a collegial and supportive working environment that fosters excellence in teaching.

# Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Open to academic staff (including sessional) and professional staff.  
Individuals or teams.

Address **one criterion** below:

1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.
2. Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect a command of the field.
3. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning.
4. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience.

Number of awards = 5 ( 1x EC, 1 x PG, 1 x sessional staff)

# Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Wellbeing (new in 2021)

Open to academic staff (including sessional) and professional staff.  
Individuals or teams.

Address **all four award criteria** below:

1. Development of resources, activities, and/or services that help students manage challenges related to academic life.
2. Sustained teacher presence (online or face-to-face) that provides learning support, offers multiple opportunities for teacher-student interaction and results in high levels of student satisfaction.
3. Commitment to creating an inclusive and respectful environment where students with diverse identities, circumstances and backgrounds feel safe and supported.
4. Teaching practices or activities that foster social connections and a sense of belonging amongst student cohorts.

# Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning

Open to academic staff (including sessional) and professional staff.  
Teams only.

Address **all four award criteria** below:

1. Distinctiveness, coherence and clarity of purpose
2. Influence on student learning and the student experience
3. Breadth of impact
4. Addressing equity, diversity and inclusion

Number of awards = 2 ( 1 x PG course work)



# Heinz Harant Award for Teaching Innovation

One award available based on recommendation of the central committee.

# Quick poll

Which award are you interested in?



# Assessment criteria

## Assessment criteria for all awards (except Outstanding Contributions to Student Wellbeing)

- A. Impact on student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience for a period of no less than three years
- B. Recognition gained from colleagues, the institution, and/or the broader community
- C. Shown creativity, imagination or innovation

NOTE: Details on **p.15** of the guidelines

*A full assessment matrix is available in the guidelines*

# Assessment criteria

## **Assessment criteria for Outstanding Contributions to Student Wellbeing**

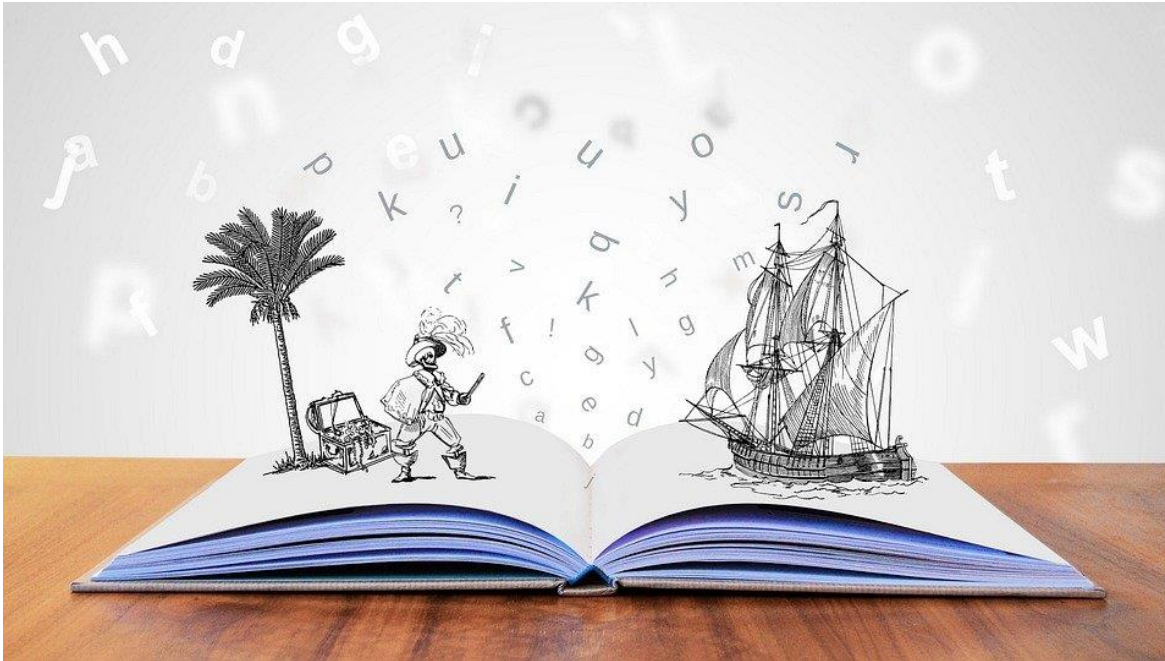
- A. Impact on student wellbeing and the overall student experience
- B. Recognition from students, colleagues and peers
- C. Caters for student diversity

*A full assessment matrix is available in the guidelines*

# Award criteria vs assessment criteria

| Award criteria   | Assessment criteria  |
|--|--|
| <p>The specific area of focus in your application:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Teaching approaches</li><li>2. Development of curricula and resources</li><li>3. Evaluation practices</li><li>4. Innovation (innovative teaching approaches) OR leadership (educational leadership) OR scholarship (publications on teaching and learning)</li></ol> | <p>Criteria used to assess all applications on the evidence provided in response to the award criteria – similar to a marking rubric</p> <p>(p.15 -16 in the Guidelines)</p> |

# Writing a convincing application



- Teaching philosophy should underpin your narrative
- Make a case for distinctiveness and build a **coherent narrative**
- Develop a narrative for the application before writing
- Construct a narrative, with a sense of drama: *What was missing? What did you do to fill the gap? Why did you choose to do that? What is the **evidence of impact?***

# Tell a story

- Focus on teaching activities and initiatives that relate to the case you are making
- Activities and initiatives should contribute to the whole narrative or theme
- Proofread. Consider clarity, both in layout/design and use of language
- Get feedback from a colleague
- Approaches and philosophy are supported by the scholarly literature
- Benchmark innovation to other faculties or universities

# Support your claims

Generic statements like “*I am a great teacher,*” “*I listen to my students*” or “*all students have a voice*” are not enough. Provide **precise examples of implementation** instead of generic statements and support your claim with evidence



*“I am a great teacher... I am truly passionate about education and I make sure to listen to all my students. In my classes, all students have a voice...”*



*I use student-centred approaches to evaluate and develop curriculum. In 2019, I conducted student focus groups to inform re-design of a course... This resulted in better quality in assessment and increased myExperience scores...*



# Support your claims

- Focus on specific practices and initiatives you implemented and outline:
  - the **rationale** (*Why did you do something differently?*)
  - the **impact** (*What difference did it make?*)
  - the **outcomes** or **results** (*How do you know it made a difference? How did you measure the impact?*)

Initiative ≠ Outcomes

- Integrate the evidence with your story. Don't simply list achievements but focus on initiatives that contribute to your overall narrative

# What is evidence?

Evidence is information that supports your claims:

- Identified by source, context, date etc.
- From a range of sources, purposefully sought
- Written into your application, not stand-alone
- Solicited vs unsolicited – both are appropriate and meaningful

Adapted from, Hinton, T. (2015, Feb). *Writing an award-winning account of your teaching practice*. OLT workshop presented at UTS.

# Collecting evidence

- Quantitative student feedback (e.g. MyExperience scores compared to Faculty or School average)
- Qualitative student feedback (e.g. comments, unsolicited emails)
- Peer review reports
- Unsolicited emails from peers/colleagues
- Adoption/adaption of teaching innovation by peers
- Invitation to speak at learning and teaching conferences
- Publications related to learning and teaching
- Awards (School, Faculty with context and explanation)
- Appointment to committees, position of responsibility (internal or external)

# Using evidence

- **Claim:** *“I use student-centred approaches to evaluate and develop curriculum because...”*
- **Example of initiative:** *“In 2019, I conducted student focus groups to inform re-design of a course...”*
- **Impact:** *“This resulted in higher attendance and engagement in tutorials; better quality of assessments; increased scores in myExperience...”*
- **Evidence:** *“myExperience scores and comments indicate that...; a comparison of grade averages before and after the re-design shows that...”*

Use data/statistics honestly and convincingly.

# Advice

- Don't put in too many quotes: integrate the evidence with your story
- Adoption/adaptation by others is good, but adoption/adaptation *and* measured success is better
- Benchmark results and innovation against School, Faculty, University
- Consider longevity and sustainability of the initiative
- Continued success is good, but fixing failures can be better
- Support your claims with scholarly literature

# Application

Select the right award and check eligibility

Download the appropriate nomination form with template on the [Teaching Gateway](#)

Fill out nomination form, written statement and gather other required documentation. Save as one file.

Email your completed application to [LandTgrants@unsw.edu.au](mailto:LandTgrants@unsw.edu.au)

# Nomination and selection process

Email your application to  
[LandTgrants@unsw.edu.au](mailto:LandTgrants@unsw.edu.au)



Faculty committee ranks applications



Central committee recommends award recipients



Award recipients are endorsed by the VC and notified of their success



Recipients are formally awarded at the annual Learning and Teaching forum.



# Tips from 2020 recipients



- **Dr Deborah Barros Leal Farias:** Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Early Career)
- **Dr Simit Raval:** Award for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (PG coursework)



