THE DEAN’S AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING (TEAM CATEGORY)

This award recognises and rewards teaching excellence related to work that has taken place among a teaching team within a subject or at a course level. It is valued at $5,000. The Dean reserves the right not to make an award.

Eligibility
Full-time, fractional, sessional (all three categories from Levels A to E) staff can apply for this award if the argument can be made that they have contributed to the teaching team. All levels of teaching (undergraduate and postgraduate) are eligible for this award. Any team which receives this award may not apply again within 3 years of receiving it.

Nomination
Staff can nominate themselves for this award or be nominated by their Head of Department. Applicants for this award must address all the criteria below.

Criteria
The criteria for this award are modelled on the University’s awards for teaching excellence as well as the previous national Office for Learning and Teaching (OLT) awards for excellence in teaching. Applications for this award will be assessed on the basis of evidence that supports the applicants’ claims against the criteria. At least four of the six criteria must be addressed.

1. An introduction to the teaching context which should include details about the subject, course or initiative including student numbers. The overview should also describe how each team member has contributed to the subject, course or initiative’s sustained development.

2. Approaches to teaching that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn which may include: Fostering student development by stimulating curiosity and independence in learning; contributing to the development of students’ critical thinking skills, analytical skills and scholarly values; encouraging student engagement through the enthusiasm shown for learning and teaching; inspiring and motivating students through high-level communication, presentation and interpersonal skills.

3. Development of curricula and resources that reflect a command of the field which may include: 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.

4. Approaches to assessment and feedback that foster independent learning which may include: integrating assessment strategies with the specific aims and objectives for student learning; providing timely, worthwhile feedback to students on their learning; using a variety of assessment and feedback strategies; implementing both formative and summative assessment; adopting assessment methods to different contexts and diverse student needs.

5. Respect and support for the development of students as individuals which may include: participating in the effective and empathetic guidance and advising of students; assisting students from equity and other demographic subgroups to participate and achieve success in their courses; influencing the overall academic, social and cultural experience of higher education.

6. Scholarly activities that have influenced and enhanced learning and teaching which may include: showing advanced skills in evaluation and reflective practice; participating in and contributing to professional activities related to learning and teaching; 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.
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These awards are intended to recognise and reward the very best teaching in the Faculty. It is anticipated that applicants will have a clear view on how their application meets the standards of ‘excellence’ rather than for example, ‘good’ teaching.

Portfolio of Documents
It is important that claims against the criteria are supported by evidence. In preparing an application, please consider the types of evidence that best supports the claims about your teaching. Evidence of student learning from SES surveys should be included at the appropriate criterion but it would be appropriate for applicants to include evidence for teaching excellence that goes beyond these.

Applications of no more than six pages (minimum 11 font Times New Roman and margins of no less than 1cm) to include:
1. An application cover sheet, completed by the nominee and signed by the nominee and the relevant Head of Department;
2. Your teaching philosophy (i.e., what you believe as most important about your teaching) - one page;
3. The selection criterion/criteria chosen and how you address them - three pages;
4. Signed letter of support from the Head of Department

Some examples of additional evidence (excluded from the page limit) could include:
- documentation of the Peer Observation of Teaching
- documentation of Subject and Curriculum review by colleagues (eg, an assessment task)
- evidence of a seminar presentation (for eg, in the WCLA seminar series) or a conference paper about your teaching or a teaching and learning initiative (internal or external) and/or
- a research publication resulting from your teaching

Selection Panel
The selection panel is drawn from the following representatives:
1. Deputy Dean (Faculty), or nominee
2. Deputy Dean (MBS), or nominee
3. Director, WCLA
4. Academic representative from Faculty Departments
5. Two learning associates
6. Previous Award recipient (when applicable)

Submission of Application
Applications should be submitted to fbe-wcla@unimelb.edu.au by no later than 5pm, 10th October 2016.

Support
WCLA provides assistance in preparing an application. Applicants are also encouraged to speak with colleagues in their departments and previous teaching award recipients.

Citizenship Expectations of Award Recipients
Award recipients are expected to contribute to the life of teaching and learning in FBE. They will be asked to:
1. Present a seminar with the WCLA that describes their teaching excellence;
2. Prepare a short case study about their teaching that can be displayed on the WCLA’s website;
3. Act as a peer mentor for teaching and learning applicants in the following years of the award; or
4. Be available as a member of the Selection Panel.

Enquiries. For all enquiries, and to make an appointment for application assistance, please contact: Sonia Puglielli (sonia.p@unimelb.edu.au).