

WESTERN SYDNEY
UNIVERSITY



Western Sydney University
Learning and Teaching Awards
Applicant Guidelines

Eligibility

Staff who have won an award in previous year are not eligible to apply for the same award in the subsequent year. Specific eligibility requirements for citations and awards are set out in the table below.

Table 1- Learning and Teaching Award Criteria

Award Type	Eligibility Requirements
Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be currently employed, and have worked for a minimum of 12 months at WSU <i>Sessional staff can apply</i> Open to individuals and teams Open to academic and professional staff Open to permanent, fixed-term and casual staff Two of the eight awards will be targeted for sessional staff
Excellence in Teaching Awards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be currently employed, and have worked for a minimum of 12 months at WSU Open to individuals and teams Open to academic staff Open to permanent and fixed-term staff Will be awarded in the following four focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellence in Teaching Excellence in Teaching – Partnerships Excellence in Teaching – Education for Sustainability Excellence in Teaching – Early Career Academics <p>Where an award is not provided for a particular focus area, the award may be provided to an alternate focus area.</p>
Excellence in Indigenous Teaching Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Applicants must be currently employed, and have worked for a minimum of 12 months at WSU This award category is open to eligible ongoing and sessional teaching staff. Nominees do not have to identify as Indigenous Australian themselves. Open to individuals and teams Additional criteria (see below).

One of the Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic) Excellence in Teaching Award winners is recommended for the Vice-Chancellor's Excellence in Teaching – Teacher of the Year Award. The Teacher of the Year Award replaces the Deputy Vice-Chancellors (Academic) Excellence in Teaching Award.

Learning and Teaching Award Details

Up to eight Citations for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning and up to four Excellence in Teaching Awards will be awarded. Winners will receive a certificate and a monetary grant. Grants may be used for professional development, to support learning and teaching initiatives or taken as a superannuation or cash payment (after tax, credited through payroll). Grant values are set out in the table below.

Table 2- Learning and Teaching Award Grant Values

Award Type	Grant Amounts
Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning	Eight awards of \$1000 for an individual or per team winners
Excellence in Teaching Awards	Four awards of \$2000 for an individual or per team winners

Submission Requirements

Applications for all Learning and Teaching Awards and Citations require:

1. a statement of support signed by the relevant Dean or Head of Unit;
2. a written statement addressing the award criteria; and
3. referee reports (minimum of 2, maximum of 6)

Both Teaching Excellence Awards and Citations require a written statement responding to criteria. Awards and Citations have different criteria (see category descriptions below). The length of the written statements also differ:

1. Excellence Awards: eight (8) pages;
2. Citations: four (4) pages;

Teaching Excellence Awards

The written statement for your application is comprised of the following sections within a maximum of 8 pages:

A. Synopsis

The synopsis must be between 150-200 words and written in the third person. It must cover the nominee's teaching area or discipline, teaching experience, the particular focus of their teaching, teaching methods, and their research/teaching interests.

B. Overview

The overview can comprise: a description of your teaching context (e.g. courses and units taught; the numbers/year levels/backgrounds of your students), your teaching approach and philosophy; a summary of the achievements you will be presenting in response to the selection criteria and how your achievements align with University missions.

C. A response to each of the selection criteria below with evidence to support the claims:

1. Approaches to learning and teaching that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn
2. Development of curricula and resources 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

Additional Material

While assessment is based primarily on the written statement, nominees can choose to submit two of the following supporting materials:

1. a three-minute video (which could include footage of the nominee talking about their program, their teaching philosophy or interviews with students)
2. website (URL)
3. 10 pages of printed teaching material in PDF format

Assessment Criteria

Nominations will be assessed by the following:

1. The extent to which the claims for excellence are supported by formal and informal evaluation
2. The extent of creativity, imagination or innovation, irrespective of whether the approach involves traditional learning environments or technology-based developments
3. Information contained in references and selected supporting materials submitted by the nominee

Excellence in Indigenous Teaching Award

The Excellence in Indigenous Teaching Award is being introduced in 2021 to acknowledge excellence in curriculum and teaching practice in Indigenous areas. Nominees do not have to identify as Indigenous Australian themselves; however, there are different criteria, as outlined in the Excellence Awards Procedures and reproduced here.

Nominees must address the following criteria for assessment:

- Development of curricula, resources or services that reflect embedded Indigenous knowledge and understanding in meaningful, valuable and engaging ways.
- Use of approaches to teaching and the support of learning that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.
- Demonstrate with evidence the outstanding nature of contributions that have resulted in students developing a better understanding about Indigenous Australia.

Citation for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning Criteria

The written statement for your application should have the following three components, which must be presented in this order in no more than four pages:

1. A summary/overview of the nominee's particular contribution and its specific context;
2. A statement addressing ONE of the following selection criteria:

A. Approaches to the support of learning and teaching that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.

This may include 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 other to enhance their approaches to learning and teaching; and developing and/or integrating assessment strategies to enhance student learning.

OR

B. Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.

This 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; providing support to those involved in the development of curricula and resources; and contributing professional expertise to enhance curriculum or resources.

OR

C. Evaluation practices that bring about improvements in teaching and learning.

Evaluation comprises making judgements about the quality of programs and activities that are part of the academic, cultural and social experience of higher education. This may include showing advanced skills in evaluation and reflective practice; using a variety of evaluation strategies to bring about change; adapting evaluation methods to different contexts and diverse student needs and learning styles; contributing professional expertise to the field of evaluation in order to improve program design and delivery; and the dissemination and embedding of good practice identified through evaluation.

OR

D. Innovation, leadership or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning and teaching and/or the student experience.

This may include 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; and influencing the overall academic, social and cultural experience of higher education.

3. **Conclusion:** A statement that addresses how the contribution has:

- influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience;
- been sustained over a period of one to three years; and
- gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution, and/or the broader community.

Assessment Criteria

The Learning and Teaching Excellence Awards Panel will consider each nomination on the extent to which it shows evidence that the nominee's contribution has:

1. influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience;
2. gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution, and/or the broader community;
3. been sustained for a period of no less than three years (two years for Early Career nominations).

Submission Process

From 2021, the submission process will be conducted via an online submission portal. This portal will be made available when applications open.

Enquiries and Information

Further information about Excellence in Teaching and Citation for Outstanding Contribution to Student Learning awards could be found in the Excellence Awards Policy and Procedures. These can be accessed by the following links:

Excellence Awards Policy:

<https://policies.westernsydney.edu.au/document/view.current.php?id=344>

Excellence Awards Procedures: <https://policies.westernsydney.edu.au/document/view.current.php?id=345>

All enquiries about the application process, or general information should be directed to the Learning Futures Team at LearningFutures@westernsydney.edu.au