

Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in HDR Supervision

The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in HDR Supervision are aligned with Priority C (Ensure Student Interests are paramount) of the UNE Strategic Plan, 2007-2010. These awards are presented each year to members of the University community who have demonstrated sustained excellence in the supervision and support of Higher Degree Research students (HDR) at the University of New England (UNE).

The University recognises that quality supervision is fundamental to providing a high quality research training experience, leading to successful learning outcomes for Higher Degree Research (HDR) students and the completion of research degrees of the highest standard.

Up to five Awards will be available annually and will be presented to individuals and/or teams by the Vice-Chancellor at the annual Staff Awards Ceremony. The Awards recognise contributions to UNE over the preceding twelve months.

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Timelines

First working day – February 2009	Call for Applications/Nominations
Last working day – March 2009	Applications/Nominations close
Mid-April	Assessment Committee process
End April	Unsuccessful Applicants/Nominees notified; Successful Applicants/Nominees notified; Awards announced via UNE-Official
May	Presentation of Award(s) at Staff Awards Ceremony

Eligibility

All members of the University staff (including adjuncts, honorary associates and emeritus academics; individually or working as supervisory teams) listed on the Register of Higher Degree Research Supervisors and whose work contributes significantly to the quality of research student learning at UNE are eligible. Successful applicants are ineligible to apply again within three years of receiving an Award. Applicants who have worked at UNE for less than twelve months are not eligible to apply.

Assessment criteria

This Award recognises the delivery of quality supervision to HDR students at the University of New England and rewards both individuals and supervisory teams who contribute to the quality and success of research training at UNE.

In assessing applications against the selection criteria indicated below, the Selection Committee will take into account the extent to which the claims for excellence are supported by formal and informal evaluation and evidence.

Applicants/nominees will be assessed on clearly demonstrated evidence provided in relation to the following five criteria:

- Approaches to supervision that influence, motivate and inspire students to independent learning and research skill-building;
- Familiarity with current research and methodology in the disciplinary area relevant to the topics of supervised research;
- Demonstrated current involvement in research through measures of research income, higher degree research completions and publications in the relevant discipline area.
- A track record of timely and successful completions over the past 5 years; and
- Approaches to the supervisory relationship; accessibility, support, monitoring, and feedback which contribute to a positive and productive postgraduate research experience.

In addition, team applications should demonstrate highly collaborative approaches to their contribution to the postgraduate research experience and show evidence of the effectiveness of the collaboration against the selection criteria.

Applications/Nominations

Application/Nomination forms can be obtained from the following web address:

<http://www.une.edu.au/od/vc-awards.php>

In addition to the statement providing demonstrated evidence against the criteria, an abbreviated CV of each applicant/nominee of no more than 2 pages (outlining workload, responsibilities and significant achievements) should be attached.

Research Services will download and attach a publications report on request. The applicants/nominees should also provide a supervision record table of no more than 10 pages which summarises all current, completed, withdrawn and transferred higher degree research students, completion rates, candidature details, research outcomes (publications, conferences, exhibitions, prizes etc) and employment post graduation.

Assessment Process

Submitted applications/nominations will be judged by the HDR Committee Awards Sub-Committee and recommendations from this committee will be made to the Vice-Chancellor.

The Vice-Chancellor reserves the right not to assign Awards in any year. Results of the assessment process will be final and no appeal arises from the Committee's decisions.

Value of Awards

Award recipients (either an individual or a team) will receive a Certificate and \$2000. The amount of any team Award will be divided equally between the members of the team.

Winners will have the option of receiving this amount of money as an additional salary payment; or it can be used for:

- attendance at courses or conferences relevant to their work and approved by Head of Cost Centre; or
- purchase of equipment approved by Head of Cost Centre, to an equivalent value, subject to meeting the purchasing requirements of the University.