

# Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

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The Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching 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 staff who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to excellence in learning and teaching and/or who have developed, promoted and/or implemented strategies to achieve excellence in learning and teaching at the University of New England (UNE).

Up to five Awards in this category will be available annually and will be presented to individuals and/or groups 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

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

## Eligibility

All members of the University staff (including teams) whose work contributes significantly to the quality of student learning at UNE are eligible to apply/be nominated. Applicants/nominees can either work in a teaching role or work in roles supporting learning and teaching. This can include contract and sessional staff, as well as adjuncts, honorary associates and emeritus academics. A team may consist of a work team or unit who have worked together to achieve a particular outcome.

These awards follow the guidelines of the Australian Learning and Teaching Council (ALTC, formerly The Carrick Institute Inc) Citations. Successful applicants/nominees may be encouraged to prepare an application to ALTC in subsequent years. Successful applicants/nominees are ineligible to apply/be nominated again within three years of receiving an Award. Applicants who have been employed at UNE for less than 12 months are not eligible.

**Note: Previous winners of ALTC awards are NOT eligible to apply for VC Awards in the same category (team or individual).**

## Assessment criteria:

Applicants/nominees for individual or team awards will be assessed on evidence they provide in relation to one or more of the following five criteria:

- a) Approaches to teaching and (to) learning support that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.
- b) Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.
- c) Approaches to assessment, feedback and learning support that foster independent learning.
- d) Respect and support for the development of students as individuals.
- e) Scholarly activities and service innovations that have influenced and enhanced learning and teaching.

Applicants/nominees are not advantaged by selecting all five criteria and are strongly advised to demonstrate against one or two criteria.

In assessing individual and team applications/nominations, the Selection Committee will take into account:

- the extent to which applicants/nominees show sequential qualitative and quantitative evidence that their contribution has:
  - a) influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience;
  - b) been sustained over time; and
  - c) gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution, and/or the broader community;
- the extent to which the claims for excellence are supported by formal and informal evaluation over time that is both qualitative and quantitative;
- the extent of creativity, imagination or innovation, irrespective of whether the approach involves traditional learning environments or technology-based developments; and
- the information contained in supporting material submitted with the application/nomination, and any other documentation as deemed appropriate within the submission limitations.

In addition, team applications/nominations should demonstrate highly collaborative approaches to their contribution to student learning 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 four pages (outlining workload, responsibilities and significant achievements) should be attached.

## **Assessment Process**

Submitted applications/nominations will be assessed by an Awards Committee comprising the Vice-Chancellor [Chair], PVC (Academic), Director, Teaching and Learning Centre, and the Academic Staff Directors, or their nominees.

The Chair can co-opt other Committee members if required.

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.