

School Awards for Excellence in Learning and Teaching

The School 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 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 to staff (one in each school) in each Faculty and will be presented to individuals and/or groups by the PVC Dean at a Faculty Awards Ceremony. The Awards recognise contributions to UNE over the preceding two years.

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Timelines

1st June 2009	Call for Applications/Nominations
31st July 2009	Applications/Nominations close
Mid-August	Assessment Committee process
End August	Unsuccessful Applicants/Nominees notified; Successful Applicants/Nominees notified; Awards announced
November	Presentation of Award(s) at Staff Awards Ceremony

Eligibility

All members of the Faculty (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 twelve months are not eligible.

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

Assessment criteria:

These Awards are intended to recognise outstanding successes in learning and teaching endeavours (with both undergraduate and postgraduate students) at UNE in the two years preceding the closing date. Applications/nominations must be supported by evidence that clearly demonstrates the achievements of the applicants/nominees.

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

- Approaches to teaching and (to) learning support that influence, motivate and inspire students to learn.
- Development of curricula, resources and services that reflect a command of the field.
- Approaches to assessment, feedback and learning support that foster independent learning.
- Respect and support for the development of students as individuals.
- 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. The statement providing demonstrated evidence should not exceed two A4 pages with single line spacing and a font not smaller than 8 points.

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 the two year time period (or longer if appropriate); 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/school-awards/index.php>

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

Cross-School Teams may nominate in each of the associated Schools, but can win a maximum of one Award.

Assessment Process

Submitted applications/nominations will be assessed by an Awards Committee comprising the PVC Dean, the Faculty Academic Directors and the Manager of Organisational Development. Heads of School maybe invited to rank the applications/nominations from their School.

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

The PVC Dean 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 \$1000. 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 School; or
- purchase of equipment approved by Head of School, to an equivalent value, subject to meeting the purchasing requirements of the University.