



## **Maynooth University Teaching Award 2020-2021**

### **Information and Guidelines**

#### **Introduction**

The Dean of Teaching and Learning is pleased to announce the Maynooth University Teaching Awards 2020-2021. The awards have been introduced to foster, recognise, and reward excellence in teaching activity which has led to particularly enriching and worthwhile learning for students.

The MU Teaching Award aims to provide recognition for outstanding teaching, to share best practice across the University, and to reinforce that curriculum development, teaching and learning, and assessment and evaluation are activities of the highest importance in Maynooth University.

These awards have been introduced to acknowledge the efforts of outstanding individuals or teams that contribute to excellence and innovation in teaching and learning across the university and enhance student learning. We encourage staff to reflect critically on their teaching practice and we invite nominations that demonstrate innovation in teaching and learning.

#### **Description of Award**

The Maynooth University Teaching Award is an award made by the President to recognise achievement in teaching and learning.

Awards are available in both individual & team categories.

Recipients will also receive a grant of €2,000 to support further work in teaching development. Where the award is made to a team, a total of €2,000 will be allocated to the team.

#### **Eligibility**

University staff (full time and part time) who are engaged in teaching are eligible for nomination for this award. Nominees must be engaged in teaching in the University in the academic year in which they are nominated. Recipients of the Award are not eligible for re-nomination within 6 years of receiving the Award, either as an individual or as part of a team.

## Criteria

The MU Teaching Award recognises those who make a significant contribution to teaching and learning. The assessment committee will assess each application based on evidence of outstanding examples of excellence in teaching approach, including activities and efforts made to enhance teaching and student learning that may go beyond the normal expectations of the role.

The Committee may also consider criteria such as

- impact on student learning;
- interactive, student-centred approaches to teaching and learning;
- collegiality and leadership;
- curriculum design and programme development;
- peer mentoring;
- inclusive teaching approaches;
- innovations in teaching and learning; and
- the scholarship of teaching and learning, including outreach and dissemination.

For further detail, please see 'Guidelines and Information – Criteria and Portfolio' below.

## Summary of Process

The core elements of the process include:

- Nomination for the Award (including the rationales for nomination, max. 300 words)
- Invitation to participate by submitting a short (1-page) summary of your approach to teaching and learning
- Shortlisting
- Invitation to submit a portfolio (shortlisted applicants only)
- Review by Teaching Awards Committee
- Presentation of Award

## Process for nomination and selection

Staff may be nominated for the Award by current students, recent graduates, or by colleagues in the University. Nomination is via the nomination form submitted to the Chair of the Teaching Awards Committee at [teachingawards@mu.ie](mailto:teachingawards@mu.ie) before 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. A nomination can be made for an individual or a team (but normally not for a whole Department).

The nominees will be asked to indicate a willingness to be considered for the award and then provide a short (max. 1-page) summary of their teaching approach and activity in support of their nomination.

The Teaching Awards Committee will agree a shortlist of nominees, based on the nominations and the summary documentation.

The shortlisted nominees will be asked to prepare and submit a portfolio of evidence in support of their nomination. Guidelines and information regarding the preparation of a portfolio are listed below.

The Teaching Awards Committee will review the portfolios with reference to the criteria for the award, and identify the award recipients.

Award recipients are announced and the awards are presented by the President. The Committee would expect to recommend approximately three Maynooth University Teaching Awards per academic year.

Recipients of the Award will have the opportunity to share their teaching practice/approach with staff of the University.

The Teaching Awards Committee will be comprised of:

- The Dean of Teaching and Learning (Chair) (or nominee)
- A representative of the Students' Union (VP Education or nominee)
- Three Faculty Deans (or nominees)
- The Director of the Centre for Teaching and Learning (or nominee)
- An external reviewer (a senior academic with relevant experience in T&L)

#### **Timeline:**

December 2020	Launch and Call for nominations
End January 2021	Deadline for nominations
Early February 2021	Invitations to participate (summary submission by mid February)
Mid February 2021	Shortlisting and invitation to submit portfolios
End March 2021	Deadline for receipt of portfolios
April 2021	Review and recommendations
May 2021	Awards Presentation

#### **Guidelines and Information – Criteria and Portfolio**

Maynooth University offers its students an exceptional educational experience that enables them to reach their full potential as students and as individuals. A key strength of our University is its strong community that fosters an open, supportive, and flexible learning environment. This award aims to recognise the staff that go above and beyond the normal expectations of their role in enabling this educational experience. University teaching and learning involves very different disciplines, contexts and students, and therefore the application of rigid standardised assessment criteria would be restrictive, so the following should be considered as potential assessment guidelines.

This list is not exhaustive, but the assessment may be guided by evidence of some of the following:

##### Impact of teaching approach on student learning:

- Demonstration of the positive impact of teaching approach on student learning. This may include delivery methods, assessment, feedback, etc.;
- Promoting an inclusive learning environment by offering a diverse range of learning, assessment, and feedback activities;
- Fostering and promoting active learning that encourages students to be intellectually responsible, self-reflective, and open-minded, equipping students for life-long learning;

- Nurturing students to develop as critical thinkers and problem solvers through acquisition of new knowledge and insights combined with the development of analytical and thinking skills.

#### Quality of teaching:

- Teaching that actively enhances student engagement, fostering independent learning, creativity, and research skills;
- Continued professional development in the area of teaching and learning (through further training, courses, exchange programmes, etc.);
- Effective or innovative use of technology to enhance the educational experience;
- Developments in the area of assessment and/or feedback that have demonstrably improved the quality of the learning experience;
- Involving students as co-creators of the learning experience, taking responsibility for their own educational development and leading in some areas of the educational process;
- Active engagement with and demonstrated response to formative feedback from students and peers in improving teaching practice;
- Research-led and informed approaches to teaching and learning.

#### Collegiality/Leadership:

- Collaboration with other academics in developing approaches to teaching and learning or course development (including other departments or disciplines);
- Sharing of practice with colleagues to improve teaching and learning;
- Participation in professional activities and evidence of contribution to the wider teaching community, including national or international engagement;
- Leadership in the area of teaching and learning (departmental responsibilities, member or chair of committees, etc.).

#### Curriculum design and development:

- Designing and developing a curriculum that is flexible, informed by current research and best practice in the area;
- Providing an inclusive learning environment for all of our students, considering students' diverse backgrounds and encouraging student engagement as active participants in their learning experience;
- Exploring interdisciplinary and/or interdepartmental content and learning experiences;
- Integrating co-curricular and/or extra-curricular experiential learning opportunities and employability skills;
- Embedding cultural and international exchange.

#### Scholarly approach to teaching:

- Using self-reflection or action research to refine and improve teaching and learning;
- Adopting an evidence-based approach to teaching and learning;
- Exploration of new educational approaches and pedagogies;
- Conducting pedagogical research that directly affects students' learning environment;
- Conference participation and publications in the area of teaching and learning.

## **Portfolio**

Once shortlisted, nominees will be invited to submit a portfolio which should include a written statement (maximum 1000 words) and can be supported by any of the following:

- student feedback;
- module or teaching evaluations;
- peer testimonials;
- evidence of innovative approaches to teaching and learning;
- evidence of impact on the student learning experience;
- video evidence (maximum of 5 mins);
- relevant publications (alternatively these can be referenced to save space);
- examples of student assessments or projects;
- other appropriate evidence.

There is a word limit of 1000 words for the written statement and supporting documentation should not extend beyond 20 pages.

## **Further Information**

For further information, please contact [teachingawards@mu.ie](mailto:teachingawards@mu.ie).