

Guidelines for Vice President and Executive Dean’s Award for Innovation in Learning and Teaching 2025

We embrace innovative knowledge and practice to tackle the challenges of our time, with a strategic focus on technology, health, and social impact.

Nature of the Awards

The College Education Committee (CEC) has established two Vice President and Executive Dean’s Awards for Innovation in Learning and Teaching, each of \$3000, which will be available in 2025.

Up to two awards will be made each year. These awards will be made to teams of staff (headed by an academic) and/or to individual academic staff.

Each winner of an award (either team or individual) will be presented with a Certificate of Innovation in Teaching. Award winners will receive a prize of \$3,000 payable into a university account subject to the same rules as a consulting account (i.e. requiring use for “university related activity”). Possible uses may include conference attendance, purchase of resources to assist in preparation and delivery of teaching and learning materials, purchase of books, journals, or professional development activities.

Recipients are recognised as leaders of innovation in their field and are strongly encouraged to share their good practice across the College. They will receive support and encouragement to apply for national teaching awards, Advance HE Fellowships and Vice-Chancellor’s Awards for Innovation in Teaching.

Purpose

The purposes of the College level awards are to:

- Recognise agile, responsive, and enterprising teaching practices in which staff and students are committed to excellence.
- Encourage teaching innovation with approaches to teaching and learning that have a paramount focus on student success.
- Promote Flinders University as an international leader in educational innovation, advanced learning technologies and learning analytics.

Eligibility - Teams or individuals can apply – see definitions below.

Team applications

Team applications must be headed by an academic (either continuing or on a contract of greater than two years following the year in which the application is made and with a full-time equivalence of 0.4 or greater). Teams must consist of at least 2 members and may include casual/part-time staff/professional staff. Team award recipients will be responsible for a project, achievement, change or development in a module, strand, topic, year level program or course, which is judged to be outstanding.

Individual applications

Individual award recipients must be academic staff (continuing, contract, sessional or academic status) with at least one year of substantial teaching experience within the University and who are judged to be outstanding teachers.

Award winners (individual, team leaders or joint leaders) will not be eligible for re-nomination within the same category the following year.

Members of a successful team who are not team leaders or joint leaders are not affected by this restriction on eligibility.

Value and use of the Award

The Award for Innovation in Learning and Teaching of \$3000 is to be used to further enhance teaching innovation in the College. For example, the prize can be used to attend conferences, purchase resources to aid in preparation and delivery of teaching and learning materials or to purchase books or journals.

Award winners cannot hire casual staff connected to any form of teaching task, eg lecture materials, marking, giving lectures, developing or amending material for short courses, teaching, lectures, tutorials etc., without approval from the Vice President & Executive Dean.

Funding

Funding will be available to successful applicants for up to 12 months from the date of the letter (the funding period). In exceptional circumstances the College may approve an extension to the funding period. Requests for extension must be made in writing prior to 1 month before the end of the funding period.

Application Process

The awards recognise **recent responsive and sustainable educational initiatives** that address one of six key strategic objectives of the university and exemplify a culture of innovation and excellence:

1. Deliver a richly interactive and personalised approach to learning with a paramount focus on student success.
2. Be an international leader in educational innovation, advanced learning technologies and learning analytics.
3. Develop enterprising graduates equipped with the skills required for success in the knowledge economy.
4. Engage students as partners in the co-creation of a learning experience that inspires achievement.
5. Embed research and critical thinking as core skills for every Flinders graduate.
6. Deliver and commit to broadening the reach of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural contact so that students encounter and engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural context as an integral part of their course of study.

Applicants must make a case which addresses **one** of the six key strategic objectives above **plus** a video. The application should not exceed **three** pages in total (A4, single spaced, minimum 11-point font Arial or Helvetica, 2.5 cm margin all around) and include:

1. Citation. Include the discipline or field of work and the distinctive contribution of the nominee or team. (maximum 25 words)
2. Biographical statement.
3. Context Statement addressing alignment with College Mission.
4. Signed endorsement from Teaching Program Director

The key component of a nomination is a 3–5-minute video addressing the chosen strategic objective, pertaining to the following key areas:

- a. **Innovation in curriculum design** which includes structures, underpinning educational/pedagogical theory, assessment, and approach to content.
- b. **innovation in teaching practice and delivery** including in relation to online, partial on campus and/or on campus. At least one award will be made to teaching innovations that involve online or partial on campus delivery.

Applicants should address the following elements in their video submission:

- Development and implementation of the innovation
 - Describe the project or practice and provide a rationale for why it was required.
- Innovation in a disciplinary context
 - Describe the context in which the innovation sits from a disciplinary perspective, with reference to why it is seen as innovative within that context.
- Measurable outcomes
 - Provide evidence of impact on students, including the methods by which impact was determined.

Innovation in Learning and Teaching Award applications should be submitted by close of business **Friday 13 June 2025** to Renee Cannon: renee.cannon@flinders.edu.au

Assessment of Applications

The Selection Committee will be appointed by the College Education Committee and will normally include representatives from each Teaching Program and student representatives. The Selection Committee's recommendations will be submitted to the Vice President and Executive Dean for approval.

In assessing nominations, the Committee will consider the:

- extent to which the claims for the innovations have been developed and implemented.
- extent to which the claims for the innovations have provided disciplinary context.
- evidence of the impact that the innovations had for students.

The Vice President and Executive Dean's Awards for Innovation in Learning and Teaching will be determined by mid-August so that successful nominees can apply for University awards in mid September.

Obligations of Award Recipients

Award recipients will be expected to further enhance teaching excellence and innovation in the College by communicating their skills to staff at an annual event, to be arranged by the College.

Any problems?

If you have any problems or any further questions, please contact Renee Cannon:
renee.cannon@flinders.edu.au

Renee Cannon
Senior College Support Officer

April 2025