



Charles Sturt
University

Teaching Academy



Executive Dean's Teaching Awards 2026

Guidelines

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Introduction

The Charles Sturt University Executive Dean's Teaching Awards recognise and celebrate excellence across a diverse range of learning and teaching practices. These include direct teaching, innovative assessment, curriculum design and development, leadership in learning and teaching, and contributions to scholarship.

The awards acknowledge the sustained impact made by individuals and teams over time, highlighting work that enhances student learning experiences, advances educational practice, and contributes to a culture of continuous improvement.

All recognised achievements align with Charles Sturt University's education strategy, ethos, and values, reflecting a strong commitment to student success, inclusivity, and educational excellence.

Benefits

The Executive Dean's Teaching Awards can be used as evidence of successful engagement with reward and recognition opportunities in learning and teaching as outlined within the [Teaching Capabilities Framework and Self-Assessment Tool](#) in the context of PPDR, academic promotion/probation, and peer review.

These awards provide a pathway for being nominated to develop an application for the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT).

Winners of the Executive Dean's Teaching Awards will receive a certificate. Recipients will also be invited to share their work as part of the Teaching Academy annual program of events.

Eligibility

The Executive Dean's Teaching Awards are open to staff from Charles Sturt University Schools/Centres and Faculties. Applicants must have completed probation, and may be:

- Full or part time staff; sessional staff or adjunct staff

- An individual – must be an academic staff member from within a School and Faculty directly working with or supporting student learning,
- A team - first named applicant must be an academic staff member from within a School and Faculty. Professional staff members may be included in a team application.

Applicants may only be included on one application per year. Previous recipients of an Executive Dean's Teaching Award or an AAUT Award are not eligible for individual renomination for five years but can be included on a team application. Previously unsuccessful applicants are eligible to apply.

Nomination categories

There are four distinct nomination categories and applicants must select **one**.

1. Approaches to teaching and/or the support of learning that influence, motivate, and inspire students to learn.
2. Development of curricula, resources, or services reflecting a command of the field.
3. Effective assessment practices that bring about improvements in student learning, may have a focus on academic integrity, digital solutions or any assessment strategies that bring about change.
4. Innovation, leadership, or scholarship that has influenced and enhanced learning, teaching, and/or the student experience. This can include excellence and innovation in inclusive course design and teaching practices.

Assessment criteria

Applicants must address all **four** assessment criteria within their selected nomination category. Each criterion is weighted evenly. In addressing the criteria, nominees are required to make a case for their impact that is supported by a diverse range of examples and evidence. The evidence can include qualitative and quantitative data from students, staff, and other stakeholders, from within and outside CSU.

Critically, nominees must contextualise and situate their application within CSU's learning and teaching context highlighting the alignment to the university's education strategy, ethos, and values.

- **Criterion A:** Positively impacted on student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience for a period of **no less than three years**, not including time taken for development or trial of any activity.
- **Criterion B:** Gained recognition from colleagues, the institution, and/or the broader community.
- **Criterion C:** Shown creativity, imagination and/or innovation, irrespective of whether the approach involves traditional learning environments or technology-based developments
- **Criterion D:** Drawn on the scholarly literature on teaching and learning to inform the development of initiatives, programs and/or practice.

Application components

1. The application comprises a written statement of **four pages maximum** comprise the following headings presented in order.
 - Proposed citation (25 words max) – This describes the distinctive contribution of the applicant(s). Should be written in the third person, avoid jargon and use plain English, should inform the broadest possible audience about the work of the applicant(s).
 - Overview – Short statement of the contribution, the CSU context and alignment to CSU’s education strategy, ethos and values
 - Statement addressing the four assessment criteria – applicant/s must address all four criteria (A to D) for their selected category. Use a subheading for each assessment criterion.
 - Reference list - a reference list (maximum 500 words) which is contained within the four pages.
2. For team nominations only, a statement of contribution (one page max) outlining the role of and percentage contribution of team members (limited to team members with 10 per cent contribution or higher).
3. Endorsement from Head of School (via email).
4. Endorsement from the Faculty Sub-Dean (Learning and Teaching) (via email).

Preparing your application

Applicants are advised to have an early discussion about their intentions to apply with their Sub-Dean Learning and Teaching.

How to apply

Applications are to be submitted online. The [online application portal](#) will ask for applicant/s details, nomination category, proposed citation, and the following attachments:

- Written submission (no more than 4 pages including references)
- Head of School endorsement email
- Sub-Dean (Learning and Teaching) endorsement email
- (for team applications only) a one-page statement of contribution

Key Dates

Date	Activity
In June	Applications open
Friday 25 September 5pm	Applications close
Tuesday 03 November	Recipients announced at CSEdX

Contact

Website: <https://www.csu.edu.au/division/learning-teaching/teaching/teaching-academy/awards-and-fellowships/charles-sturt-executive-deans-teaching-award>

Email: teachingacademy@csu.edu.au