

Faculty of Science Learning and Teaching Fellowship

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1. Introduction

The Faculty of Science recognises and promotes teaching excellence and innovations that lead to engaged enquiry in the sciences. The Fellowship will provide funding for strategic, high-profile and sustainable projects to enhance research enriched learning and teaching in the Faculty. The Fellowship criteria are designed to encourage renewal of learning and teaching and to support the development of applications for Vice Chancellor's (VC) awards for learning and teaching and for Office of Learning and Teaching (OLT) awards, grants and fellowships.

The Fellowship provides access to \$1000 to fund resources and \$2500 for 3 years for teaching leadership and development activities.

2. Guidelines for the Faculty of Science *Learning and Teaching Fellowship*

(a) Eligibility

This fellowship is suitable for both academics and teams of academics in the Faculty of Science. It is expected that individual applicants or at least one member of a team will have roles such as year, unit or laboratory coordinator and/or can demonstrate the capacity to influence teaching practice in the Faculty. Those who have received a Faculty of Science, a VC or an OLT Excellence in Teaching Award in the past two years are ineligible.

(b) Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed on the basis of the quality, sustainability and likely impact of the proposed research enriched learning and teaching (RELT) projects and on the demonstrated ability of the individual or team to deliver gains in student engagement and learning outcomes. Applications will be assessed using the following criteria:

1. The project addresses a strategic challenge for enhancing engaged inquiry through RELT within the Faculty of Science
2. The solution proposed is likely to result in meaningful and sustained improvements in engaged inquiry for a significant number of students in the Faculty of Science
3. The project team has the expertise and linkages to complete the project and achieve staff and student participation

4. A convincing evaluation and dissemination strategy is proposed and this involves ensuring the RELT innovation is sustained and is spread beyond one disciplinary area.

In addressing criteria 1 and 2, applicants should describe a proposed project which focus on one or more of the following:

- Renewal of curricula to provide RELT experiences that foster greater student engagement
- Implementation of RELT strategies that foster greater student engagement
- Implementation of RELT assessment activities that foster greater student engagement
- Development of activities that offer students greater engagement with the research culture of the Faculty of Science or greater engagement with the professional community.

In addressing criterion 3, applicants should describe the teaching qualities, record and current responsibilities of the individual or team. This description should include evidence for teaching excellence and an explanation of how commitment and participation by staff and students will be achieved. Evidence for teaching excellence might include some or all of the following: reflection on and discussion of student evaluation data, comments from staff-student liaison committees, peer review and formal or informal feedback from students, supervisors, peers or colleagues.

In addressing criterion 4, applicants should describe the ways in which the project's outcomes will be disseminated to the learning and teaching community within the Faculty of Science and beyond. Applicants should also describe how the project will lead to research enriched learning and teaching across the Faculty.

(c) Method of Application

The application form and closing date are available on the Faculty of Science website:

- http://sydney.edu.au/science/teaching/faculty_teaching_awards.shtml

The application form must be used to address each of the above criteria. The total word count should not exceed 3000 words with around 500 words used to address each of criteria 3 and 4. Up to 10 pages of supplementary information addressing the points below may be included:

- Evidence of leadership or involvement in improving learning and teaching through, for example, year, unit or laboratory coordination, participation in professional associations, projects and committees related to learning and teaching
- Contributions to scholarship on learning and teaching through journals and conferences that are relevant to the case
- Scanned copies of formal teaching qualifications or previous teaching awards.

3. Support for Applicants

Applicants are strongly advised to seek feedback from suitable mentors and colleagues on their draft applications. Designated members of the Faculty Learning and Teaching Committee will be available to assist with the preparation of cases but the first point of contact should be the relevant School / Unit representative on this committee:

- <http://s14.sydney.edu.au/science/staff/committees/index.shtml>

The Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) website has further information on engaged enquiry and the research enriched curriculum framework:

- <http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/projects/relt/>
- <http://www.itl.usyd.edu.au/projects/relt/framework.htm>

For other information or advice, please contact the Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching:

- http://sydney.edu.au/science/about_us/people.shtml#associate_deans

4. Responsibilities of Learning and Teaching Fellowship Winners

Each fellowship winner's name, academic affiliation and a synopsis of the teaching project will be placed on the Faculty of Science Learning and Teaching website.

On completion of projects, applicants will be required to provide a final report.

Fellowship winners may be contacted by other members of the academic staff in the Faculty in relation to the preparation of an application, or other matters related to their teaching. Hard copies of successful applications will be retained and may be used as exemplars to support applicants in future years. Fellowship winners are expected to engage actively in Faculty of Science Learning and Teaching seminars and fora during and beyond the length of the fellowship, to initiate teaching collaborations across the Faculty, and to contribute actively to the development of teaching excellence in the Faculty and the University.

5. Selection Panel

The applications will be considered by a panel chaired by the Associate Dean for Learning and Teaching, a Pro-Dean, a member of the Learning and Teaching Committee, a previous winner of a Faculty or VC teaching award and a representative from another Faculty's Learning and Teaching Committee or from the Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL). The panel will assess applications according to the *quality and strength of the case for the proposed RELT project made against each of the criteria* and will make recommendations to the Dean.