

JCU Sessional Teaching Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

Application Guidelines



JAMES COOK
UNIVERSITY
AUSTRALIA



For over 50 years, James Cook University (JCU) has been dedicated to serving regional and remote communities through providing study experiences that are exciting, challenging, and rewarding, and that help graduates access the education and experience they need to thrive in the global workforce.

JCU is devoted to the success and wellbeing of our students through commitment to a set of [core values](#) that define what we stand for and guide the way we behave and work together. JCU values authenticity, excellence, integrity, and respect in everything we do, and recognises outstanding practice in teaching and scholarship that adheres to these values in many different ways.

The Sessional Teaching Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning are one such example. These awards are an initiative of the Education Division and facilitated by the Centre for Education & Enhancement.

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Aims

The *Sessional Teaching Awards* recognise the significant contributions that sessional staff make to the teaching and learning community at JCU. Outstanding sessional staff are found across the University and their contributions to the community are diverse: some coordinate and teach subjects, others run laboratories, and yet others provide support to online learners. Some sessional staff may impact and influence student learning and/or the student experience in a sustained way over a number of years, while others may only teach for a semester, making exceptional contributions to the community in only a short time.

Up to six (6) awards, with a prize value of \$500 each, will be awarded in 2024. The recipients will receive the award as a gift card to use as they wish.

Winners will be formally announced on Thursday, 24 October 2024, at the Celebrating Excellence in Learning & Teaching at JCU: Teaching Excellence Awards as a way to formally recognise and thank our sessional staff for their efforts.

Eligibility

College Deans may nominate any staff member who has been employed on a sessional basis during the year. For the purposes of these awards, all nominations must relate to contributions to student learning in undergraduate and coursework postgraduate courses. Sessional award recipients will not be eligible for re-nomination within three years of receiving this award but may nominate for other awards. Nominees must be employed by JCU at the time of nomination.

Selection Criteria

Nominees will be judged on the evidence provided to demonstrate sustained outstanding teaching that enhances student learning. Nominations will be judged based on qualitative and quantitative evidence that the nominee has:

1. influenced student learning, student engagement and/or the overall student experience.
2. demonstrated an impactful contribution to student learning, student engagement, and/or the overall student experience.
3. gained recognition from fellow staff, the institution, and/or the broader community.

Nomination process

Nomination requires three elements:

- completion of the nomination form by the Dean of College,
- a written statement, and
- two references from staff able to make comment on the teaching and learning achievements of the sessional staff member.

In order to be completed, the nomination form must include the following:

1. **A statement from the nominee's College Dean (or equivalent)** supporting the nomination and directly referencing the particular contribution made by the nominee.
2. **A written statement** detailing the particular contribution made by the nominee and the context in which this occurred. Supporting evidence as to how the nominee's contribution has influenced student learning, engagement, and/or the overall student experience must be provided. Statements should be clear and concise and be no more than one (1) A4 page. The statement may be completed by the nominee or their line manager.
Exemplars are available from grantsandawards@jcu.edu.au
3. **Two written references** of no more than one (1) A4 page each. Referees must be able to comment specifically on the nominee's teaching and learning activities and their impact on student learning, student engagement, and/or the overall student experience.

The nomination form is available through [this link](#).

Closing dates

Signed nominations must be submitted through your Associate Dean, Learning & Teaching (ADLT). Please contact your ADLT for guidance. Contact details for college ADLTs can be found here:

<https://www.jcu.edu.au/centre-for-education-and-enhancement/about-cee/contacts>

The College ADLTs will submit all nominations to the Centre for Education & Enhancement via email to grantsandawards@jcu.edu.au by **COB Friday, 20 September 2024**.

Please note that Colleges and Divisions may direct earlier dates for review and submission.

Selection panel

A panel consisting of the Dean, Centre for Education & Enhancement, and the College ADLTs, will select up to six (6) awardees from the submitted nominations.

Additional panel members may also be drawn from previous Teaching Excellence award winners. In order to evaluate the nominations, the selection panel also retains the right to seek further evidence from any persons it deems necessary.



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