

# Sessional Staff Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning

## Application Guidelines



James Cook University recognises outstanding practice in teaching and scholarship in many ways. The Sessional Teaching Awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning is one such example. These awards are an initiative of the Division of Academic & Student Life and facilitated by the Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement Directorate.

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### Aims

Sessional Teaching Awards recognise the significant contributions made by sessional staff to the teaching and learning community of JCU. It is recognised that within each College we have many outstanding staff and their contributions are diverse. For example, some coordinate and teach subjects, others run laboratories, and others support online learners. In addition, we have some sessional staff who have made ongoing outstanding contributions to student learning over many years, while others may teach for just one semester with us, making exceptional contributions in a short period of time. These awards are a way to recognise and thank for them for their efforts.

Up to ten awards, with a prize value of \$ 1,000 each, will be awarded in 2018 with a total prize value of \$ 10,000. The recipients will receive the award as a personal cash prize.

### Eligibility

Deans of Colleges 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 of award.

### Criteria

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

1. influenced student learning, student engagement or the overall student experience, and
2. demonstrated a sustained contribution over time.

### **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.

1. The nomination form is available from  
[https://www.jcu.edu.au/\\_data/assets/word\\_doc/0006/37563/2018\\_Sessional-Teaching-Award\\_Nomination-form.doc](https://www.jcu.edu.au/_data/assets/word_doc/0006/37563/2018_Sessional-Teaching-Award_Nomination-form.doc)  
This needs to be completed by the Dean of College.
2. A written statement detailing the particular contribution made by the sessional staff member and the context in which teaching occurred needs to be completed. Supporting evidence as to how the contribution has influenced student learning, engagement and/or the overall student experience also needs to be included. Statements should be clear and concise and no more than one A4 page.
3. Two written references from relevant staff members of one A4 page each. Referees must be able to comment on the teaching and learning activities.

### **Closing Dates**

Please ensure the nomination form is submitted to the College Associate Dean of Learning and Teaching by Monday 3 September 2018.

### **Selection Panels**

A panel consisting of the Dean of Learning, Teaching and Student Engagement and the Associate Deans of Learning and Teaching will select awardees from the nominations. Sessional awards will be presented to recipients in September.