


# The 1413 Teaching Awards 2026-2027 Criteria

**Note**: A nominee does not need to demonstrate achievement on *every* bullet point in the criteria to receive the award. These points are meant to guide nominators and the review committees and to provide means of comparison between nominees.

**Outstanding Teacher (two awards, one award for Arts & Divinity and one for Science & Medicine)**

These awards recognise a member of teaching staff whose exemplary contributions to instructional excellence have significantly impacted the student learning experience.

The recipient may:

- Engage students in their learning through module content or the way in which they teach
- Expand student knowledge or skills by challenging them academically
- Place learning in a wider context, broadening students' horizons
- Motivate and engage students to help them achieve specific learning objectives
- Demonstrate enthusiasm, knowledge and a genuine passion for their subject area
- Motivate students to perform at their full academic potentials through passion for excellent teaching
- Inspire students using their expertise in the field and cutting edge, research-led teaching
- Go out of their way to help students, giving extra support to those who need it
- Instil a love for a subject in their students, giving them the enthusiasm to exceed their previous limits

**Outstanding Commitment to Academic Inclusivity**

This award recognises a member of teaching staff who has made significant efforts to widen participation and access to learning. This support may take the form of classroom structure

(e.g. evening degree), module content (e.g. justice and equality), or exceptional consideration or care for traditionally underrepresented students.

The recipient may:

- Create an inclusive learning environment for all students in which all feel their physical and mental needs, culture beliefs and thoughts are welcomed and considered
- Proactively advance inclusivity for all students, for example in terms of race, disability, gender, or caring/family commitments
- Intentionally design modules/lectures to be inclusive
- Demonstrate investment in lifelong learners, including mature students, distance learners, commuting students, and/or evening degree students
- Address contemporary issues of inclusivity in their teaching
- Empower other students to think critically about inclusivity or to empathize with other perspectives
- Implement initiatives to ensure equality, diversity and inclusivity is commonplace in their classroom

**Outstanding Innovation in Teaching**

This award celebrates creativity in the classroom, whether in terms of module structure, teaching style, or content delivered.

The recipient may:

- Take a creative, original, or inventive approach to their teaching techniques, style, and methods
- Create alternatives to traditional teaching methods that are exciting and accessible to all students
- Design and employ innovative assessment methods or criteria for marking
- Utilise new or adapted technology or content to the curriculum
- Advance student learning with advanced concepts, tools, or approaches

**Outstanding Dissertation, Thesis, or Project Supervisor (two awards, one for a Postgraduate Supervisor and one for an Undergraduate Supervisor)**

This award recognises excellent guidance and support offered by a staff member during a student learning or research project, including postgraduate research, postgraduate taught, and undergraduate dissertations/theses.

The recipient may:

- Support students in the writing an undergraduate or postgraduate dissertation/thesis or other academic project by sharing advice and guidance

- Encourage students to pursue independent academic enquiry, while offering insight based on their own expertise
- Provide resources and opportunities to expand the scope or impact of students' work
- Excel as a guide and/or provides excellent pastoral or careers support in addition to their expertise in the subject
- Provide insightful and critical feedback that elevates the dissertation/project to a new level
- Assist the student to specify or finesse the focus and scope of the research project

**Outstanding Academic Mentorship**

This award acknowledges the way a member of teaching staff influences students' overall development (both personally and academically). This award may be presented to an individual mentor (for example, one's advisor) **or** a staff member who displays exceptional mentoring capacities for all/multiple students (for example, a staff mentor to PGRs).

The recipient may:

- Put in extra effort to support students and has a strong understanding of the complex challenges students face
- Employ a variety of communication methods and techniques to connect with students
- Be approachable, proactive and supportive in addressing students' concerns
- Listen to students and offers constructive advice to help build on academic, life, or career goals.
- Effectively partner or collaborate with other departments or even non-academic units to advance students' learning or experience
- Inspire new ideas or a love of learning in a student

**Outstanding Professional Service Staff Member**

This award recognises the efforts of a member of staff whose primary responsibilities do not include teaching (such as technical or laboratory support staff, an advisor, or administrative assistant, among other roles). The staff member has made a significant impact on a students' academic or personal journey.

The recipient may:

- Go above and beyond their role requirements to provide a wide-ranging academic, pastoral, administrative, or careers support
- Make the lives of others easier by helping things run smoothly and efficiently
- Build good working relationships, effectively communicating, sharing ideas and information to get or direct students to where they need to go

- Act positively on feedback to provide an excellent service and striving for continuous improvement
- Be flexible and proactive in improving services and performance
- Adopt a selfless or forward-thinking approach and not be afraid to tackle difficult issues
- Offer support that motivates or inspires students, or support them through difficult times
- Demonstrate an excellent understanding of the needs of students and be available to assist wherever possible
- Contribute or enhance the academic journey by providing advice and direction or by teaching important skills and lessons

**Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant or Demonstrator (two awards, one for Arts & Divinity and one for Science & Medicine)**

This award recognises a current postgraduate research student who has gone above and beyond the expected teaching responsibilities (as a tutor or demonstrator) to positively impact the student learning experience. The recipient will be a current postgraduate student (e.g. a PhD candidate, or a research masters student) with teaching responsibilities (which may include support for students working in a lab space).

The recipient may:

- Create a stimulating, challenging, or interesting classroom environment (whether in a tutorial or in labs) that allows students to achieve and/or excel beyond the intended learning objectives
- Demonstrate an advanced and perceptive understanding of teaching and pedagogy, either in small-group teaching scenarios or larger module cohorts
- Show an established committed to the development of their students
- Deliver enthusiastic or creative teaching in tutorials or the laboratory
- Provide prompt and helpful feedback or uses innovative learning aids or assessment techniques
- Share useful and insightful advice and identifies relevant resources to support further learning

**Outstanding Commitment to Teaching for Sustainability**

This award recognises a member of teaching staff that has demonstrated dedication to sustainability and embedded sustainability practices into their curriculum.

The recipient may:

- Engage students on real world examples of sustainability (enhancing biodiversity, analysing net zero solutions, identifying power structures and

political systems that influence sustainable development, analyse the influence of economic growth on environmental change (positive or negative), considering the environmental impact of non-reusable materials and looking at sustainable alternatives)

- Show creativity and innovation in relation to education for sustainability
- Incorporate an interdisciplinary approach to reflect the complexity of addressing environmental issues, highlighted by the University's sustainability strategy
- Recognises unsustainable current practices within their discipline and negotiates alternatives
- Provide and recognise extra and co-curricular opportunities for students to develop their skills in relation to sustainability efforts