



AUSTRALIAN AWARDS  
FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING

## NEWSLETTER #2

4 MAY 2020

Dear Colleagues

We hope you are staying safe and healthy through these unusual times.

Universities across the sector are facing continuing and extraordinary challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Travel bans into Australia will mean international student enrolments will continue to decline in Semester 2, and the sector is expecting this downturn to continue into next year.

Whilst the financial situation is critical for all universities, the government has offered relief packages for some assistance, recognising the vital role of our universities play in our communities in educating our students.

We acknowledge the difficult circumstances the sector is facing, and the extraordinary work being achieved by our academics under this period of uncertainty. To support the institutions and nominees at these times, we have:

- Delayed the submission closing date to the end of September,
- Released the 2020 AAUT Nomination Packs earlier in May, and
- Developed AAUT brochures to promote AAUT within your institution.

Thank you for your continued dedication for this prestigious award and for your support in these unprecedented times.

We look forward to receiving your institution's nominations.

Professor Angela Carbone  
AAUT Awards Team Director



## Timeline & Key Dates



### COUNTDOWN to Nominee Registration:

- Phase 1: Nominee Registration  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> Aug to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> Sept
- Phase 2: Submission Upload  
Monday 14<sup>th</sup> Sept to Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept

**16**  
WEEKS

Click [here](#) for the 2020 AAUT Key dates.

# AAUT UPDATE

## 2020 AAUT Nomination Information Packs



2020 Nomination Instructions and Forms are now available to download from the [AAUT-UA website](#) or click [here](#) (Dropbox).

## Key Changes to 2020 AAUT Nomination

We aim to continuously improve on the awards scheme and make it as robust as possible. Please see below for a summary of changes:

1. **Citation:** The categories and criteria are now aligned with the Teaching Awards. Nominees are required to select one category and one criterion for their application.
2. **Program Awards:** Are open for team nominations ONLY
3. **Prize money:** TBC for Program and Teaching awards
4. **Assessment Matrix:** Revised the content
5. **Key elements for a successful application:** Added to the AAUT Program Overview
6. **Nomination Forms:** Available in fillable PDF and Word. Signatures can be obtained via email and signed through the Adobe
7. **Awards Portal Technical support:** Available from Monday to Friday 11am to 5pm AEST during Phase 1 and Phase 2 period.

## 2020 AAUT Submission Number

Award Types	Categories	No. of awards	Max submissions per institution	Prize money
1. Citations for Outstanding Contributions to Student Learning (Citations)	7	Up to 100	6	NIL
2. Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning (Program Awards)	6	Up to 6	2	TBC
3. Awards for Teaching Excellence (Teaching Awards)	7	Up to 7	3	TBC
4. Award for Australian University Teacher of the Year	N/A	1	N/A	TBC

## ICO Roles and Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of an Institutional Contact Officer (ICO) are:

- To act as the central point of contact for the AAUT program for your institution
- To access the Awards Portal with the allocated account ID and password
- To upload all of their institution's nominations via the Awards Portal
- To disseminate all AAUT related news to their institution and nominees
- To promote AAUT in their institution.

Click [here](#) for the updated ICOs list.

## 2020 AAUT Promotion Campaign

To expand the range of disciplines represented in the AAUT, use the brochures below to promote the awards in your institution:

- [AAUT Overview](#)
- Teaching Awards
  - [Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education](#)
- Program Awards
  - [Postgraduate Education](#)
  - [Global Citizenship & Internationalisation](#)



## Updated AAUT-UA website

### SUGGESTIONS ON WRITING A SUCCESSFUL AWARD APPLICATION

Below are some suggestions from the assessors and awards committees on writing a successful application:

- Preparation**
  - Be prepared to demonstrate that the nominee's effort has had an impact beyond their own discipline, and how the initiative can be well sustained even after the nominee has moved on to something else.
  - An application is not a CV that lists achievements. It is a tightly woven narrative, supported by evidence and scholarly literature, that highlights the respect the nominee has made to student learning.
  - Focus on any activity – planning, reflection, SOLT has to be on what change is made to the student experience and student learning.
  - Take the evidence suggestions seriously.
  - Follow the rubric and be succinct but nevertheless find room to add flair.
- Select correct category**
  - Select the right category for the application. Seek feedback from as many colleagues as possible.
  - For program nomination, ensure that the program is really excellent. Make it clear in the nomination that the program is not simply one of many excellent programs offered in Australia in the discipline.
  - Make sure that the criteria and evidence closely link to the category under which you are applying.
  - Focus on the specific innovation and nomination, a criterion for something you do, not for your work as a whole. So be very specific!
- Application Writing**
  - Take time to identify your "personal brand" and build a coherent narrative about your brand.
  - Bring the assessor into your story so the assessor can see what the nominee's journey has been. Write coherently, check a framework for the application before writing.
  - Be clear about what the nominee is trying to do. Describe, tell the assessor how the nominee do it and how you know it is successful. Focus on any activity – planning, reflection, SOLT has to be on what change is made to the student experience and student learning.
  - Tell a great story get some advice and assistance on how to tell a story. Create a sense of drama what are missing, how did you know that, what did you do to fix that gap, why did you choose that what next.
  - Proofread: consider the reader in terms of clarity, both in layout/design and use of language.
- Selection Criteria**
  - Clarity of communication for a general audience is key.
  - Pay careful attention to the assessment criteria and the suggested sequence in which to respond.
  - Follow the rubric! The criteria are quite clear and specific. Make sure the nominee evidence the claims made against each criterion.
- Provide evidence of the claims**
  - Follow the guidelines and consider carefully, in particular, the selection and presentation of evidence of impact on student experience and outcomes. Where it is possible to identify impact beyond 'student satisfaction' (e.g., student engagement, retention, performance, employment outcomes etc) then do include this evidence.
  - Ensure the nominee collects comprehensive evidence of impact on student learning (quantitative, not just anecdotal). An area that many applications need to improve on.
  - The critical importance of evidence and presentation of evidence data, both quantitative and qualitative. This also suggests that nominations should not be submitted until there is robust data available to support their claims.
  - Be clear and provide evidence about the impact and reach of the initiative.

## Tips on writing a successful award application

Click on the image to download.



Institution	ICO Name	ICO Email
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La Trobe University	Associate Professor Luc Brangan	L.Brangan@latrobe.edu.au

## Institutional Contact Officer (ICO)

See [here](#) for the updated ICO list. Please let us know of changes.



## Awards Mentors for 2020 Award Application

The [AAUTN Award Mentor Scheme](#) draws on the skills and experience of Australian Teaching Award winners who have volunteered to act as mentors for future awards applicants.

## Learning and Teaching Repository

It contains a collection of higher education learning and teaching materials flowing from projects funded by the Australian Government from 1994 to 2018.

[view this email in your browser](#)

## Next AAUT Newsletter: Beginning of June 2020

Awards Team - Angeline Sim & Jing Ye  
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