



# NEWSLETTER #3

1 June 2020

Dear Colleagues

We hope you are enjoying the eased COVID-19 restrictions.

While the sector welcomes some support from the Government, such as the \$350 million Higher Education State Investment Fund announced by the Victorian Government earlier this month, universities are still facing continuing challenges.

Many are considering ways to address their current financial position and are examining the framework negotiated by sector representatives and the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU). Whilst some have made the decision to participate, others have decided not to for various reasons. Whatever the decision, universities are acting in the best interest of their people and planning their recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

During these times, academics are putting in an incredible effort to adjust their teaching often in very short timeframes, for a smooth transition to online learning or return to face to face delivery. To acknowledge the contribution of our stellar academics, we encourage institutions to nominate their staff for an AAUT award.

AAUT recognises our exemplary university educators for their creativity, innovation and leadership in learning and teaching. We value your institution's continuous support for this prestigious award to acknowledge the outstanding efforts of our academics.

We look forward to receiving your institution's nominations.

Professor Angela Carbone  
AAUT Awards Team Director

 Follow [Angela Carbone on twitter](https://twitter.com/angelacarbone41) (@angelacarbone41) [AAUT-27 May](#)



# 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



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

# AAUT UPDATE

## Nomination FAQ

A summary of frequently asked questions.



## AAUTN Mentor Scheme

The [AAUTN Award Mentor Scheme](#) draws on the skills and experience of Australian Teaching Award winners. To date, there are 42 registered mentors who have volunteered to act as mentors for future awards applicants, including 2018 and 2019 Teaching Award recipients.



## Email Security

To ensure ICOs and assessors are receiving all emails promptly from the Awards Portal (SPARKPLUS), we strongly suggest ICO to contact your institution IT centre to release any email from [no\\_reply@sparkplus.com.au](mailto:no_reply@sparkplus.com.au) and [support@sparkplus.com.au](mailto:support@sparkplus.com.au).

## Assessor Recruitment

equivalent) for suitably experienced assessors, and will be contacting past AAUT assessors. If you are interested in being involved as an assessor, please contact your DVCA.

Some benefits of being a national Teaching Award assessor:

- Network and collaborate with colleagues from different institutions
- Professional development
- Ability to further contribute to the sector – to “give back”
- Ability to bring knowledge gained back into the institution
- Improve the quality and status of teaching and learning in higher education

Some feedback from 2019 AAUT Assessors:

*“Team assessment aspect was really rewarding – great to meet new people from diverse backgrounds.”*

*“It is always such a pleasure to be involved in the AAUT Awards Scheme because it reminds me how many amazing academics we have in this country, doing innovative and interesting things to engage student.”*

## AAUT Resources



### 2020 AAUT Nomination Information Packs

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

A screenshot of the Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT-UA) website. The page has a white background with a dark blue header and footer. The header contains navigation links: ABOUT, FACTS & PUBLICATIONS, POLICY & SUBMISSIONS, CAMPAIGNS & PROJECTS, OUR AWARDS, MEDIA, EVENTS, CONTACT. The main content area is titled "AUSTRALIAN AWARDS FOR UNIVERSITY TEACHING" and includes sections for "ABOUT AAUT", "2020 AAUT KEY DATES", "CONTACT DETAILS", "AWARD TYPES", "HOW TO NOMINATE", and "NEWS AND EVENTS". The "2020 AAUT KEY DATES" section contains a table with the following information:

Task	Date
Nominee Registration	Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> August to Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
Submission Upload	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to 22 <sup>nd</sup> September 2020
Notification of Outcome	January 2021
AAUT Awards Ceremony	February 2021

The footer contains "QUICK LINKS" (HOME, ABOUT, FACTS & PUBLICATIONS, POLICY & SUBMISSIONS), "OUR AWARDS" (MEDIA, CONTACT), "GET IN TOUCH" (1 800 650 270, DEAN@AAUT.UA, T +61 2 9381 8188), and "FOLLOW US" (TWITTER, LINKEDIN, FACEBOOK).

### AAUT-UA website

For all AAUT related information.

**2020 TIMELINE**

- MAR - JUL** Preparation for Submission
- 4 MAY** Online Submission
- 24 AUG - 18 SEP** Online Submission
- OCT - DEC** Assessment Period
- JAN 2021** Notification of Outcome
- FEB 2021** Award Ceremony

**2020 AAUT OVERVIEW V1-APRIL**

The Australian Awards for University Teaching (AAUT) were established in 1997 by the Australian Government to celebrate and reward excellence in university teaching and has been administered by Universities Australia since 2018.

**AWARD TYPES**

- Citations** are a smaller scale award that recognise and reward the diversity of contributions made by individuals and teams to the quality of student learning.
- Program Awards** recognise learning and teaching programs or services that make innovative and outstanding contributions to student learning and the quality of the student experience.
- Teaching Awards** recognise Australia's most outstanding university teachers or teaching teams who have demonstrated excellence, leadership and sustained commitment to teaching and learning in higher education.
- Leadership Award** of the AAUT is awarded to one teaching award recipient, who has an exceptional record of advancing student learning, educational leadership and innovative contributions to learning and teaching.

**HOW TO NOMINATE**

Each nominee is required to prepare a submission consisting of a written statement and relevant supporting documents. This submission is referred to as a 'nomination'. Once completed, the Institutional Contact Officer (ICO) is responsible for the online submission of all nominations for their institution. (ICO is the central point of contact if you are interested in applying for an Award. Details of your ICO can be found here.)

**KEY DATES**

- Monday 24 Aug to Friday 4 Sept: Phase 1: Registration of nominee's details
- Monday 4 Sept to Friday 25 Sept: Phase 2: Upload nomination online

**REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION**

- Nomination Form
- Claims Against Assessment Criteria
- Team Statement of Contribution - For Team Nomination Only
- Two Letters of Reference
- Supporting Materials - Program and Teaching Awards Only
- Curriculum Vitae (CV) - Teaching Awards Only
- Digital Photograph

Refer to 2020 AAUT Nomination Packs for details. AAUT Award Recipient Science is available to assist in nominations preparation. Click here for 1997 to 2018 Australian University Teachers of the Year (AAUTY) Booklet.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

Awards Team [aaut@ua.edu.au](mailto:aaut@ua.edu.au)

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	N/A
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

ACU	Mary Evripidou	<a href="mailto:mary.evripidou@acu.edu.au">mary.evripidou@acu.edu.au</a>
Batchelor Institute	TBC	TBC
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LA TROBE UNIVERSITY	Associate Professor Liz Branigan	<a href="mailto:L.Branigan@latrobe.edu.au">L.Branigan@latrobe.edu.au</a>

## 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](#)
- [Neville Bonner Award for Indigenous Education](#)
- [Global Citizenship & Internationalisation](#)
- [Postgraduate Education](#)

## Institutional Contact Officer (ICO)

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

## 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 work has had an impact beyond their own discipline, and how the initiative can be sustained even after the nominee have 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 impact the nominee has made to student learning.
  - Focus on any activity – planning, reflection, SoLT has to be on what change it made to the student experience and student learning.
  - Take the evidence suggestions seriously.
  - Follow the rubric and be succinct but somehow 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 disciplines.
  - Make sure that the claims and evidence speak back to the category under which you are applying.
  - Focus on the specific innovation and nomination, a citation is 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 assessors can see what the nominee's journey has been.
  - Write coherently – develop a framework for the application before writing.
  - Be clear about what the nominee is seeking to achieve, tell the assessors 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 it 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 was missing, how did you know that, what did you do to fill 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 instructions! The criteria are quite clear and specific. Make sure the nominee evidence the claims make 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 evaluation and presentation of evaluative 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.



## 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.

## Tips on writing a successful award application

Click on the image to download.

## Next AAUT Newsletter: Beginning of July 2020

Awards Team - Angeline Sim & Jing Ye

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