

UUSU LEARNING AND TEACHING AWARDS 2018 – Categories and Criteria

Category: Ulster Team of the Year

It's great when you have one individual who is outstanding – but we know that there are also full teams who work well together and ensure **every aspect** of your experience is fantastic.

Does your course have **excellent content**, which is **logically timed and presented**? Perhaps your team provide **excellent online, as well as face to face, support** for learning? It is also important that you feel like **you 'belong' to your subject** and develop a bond with your course and the University – maybe your course team **go over and above** to ensure this happens for you? Maybe it isn't a teaching team that has had an outstanding impact on your learning experience, it may also be people who support your learning, in the library for example.

Tell us about it and ensure that the whole team get the recognition they deserve.

Please make sure you tell us the exact name of the team: and as many of its' members as possible!

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- Excellent course content and organisation;
- Online and face to face support for learning;
- Creating a sense of belonging to your subject, and helping you and your course mates to bond;
- Why they stand out for you.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Student Representation

Nominations are welcome from students and staff for this award

At UUSU we really value all of our Student Representatives (Course and Senior Course Reps) – and we know you do too. This is your chance to say thank you to the student who has put themselves forward to help improve your student experience at Ulster. They will have helped to make **at least one big change** to your time at University this year and you will be able to tell us about the continued support that they have offered to your course.

The change might have been on your course, or it could have been creating a great community feel amongst you and the rest of your classmates which helps you all get more out of your university experience – whatever it is, tell us about it.

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- An issue that they have tackled, and how they went about it;
- An enhancement that they have suggested and seen through to completion;
- How they have supported students on the course;
- How they have worked to build a positive partnership and relationship with staff.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Student Support

Succeeding at University depends on so much more than just the people who teach and deliver your subject content. This award is **aimed primarily at non-teaching and support** staff - to recognise all those outside the classroom that have gone above and beyond to help you. This person could be based in any department – student support or the library for example, or they might even be technical support in your faculty.

No matter where they are based, they will have helped you to complete your studies through their flexibility, willingness to help, and knowledge of their area.

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- How they have helped students to learn outside of their course;
- Supported you, and others, to succeed;
- How their knowledge in their area, and beyond has helped you, and/or others.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Teaching – Faculty Awards

All of us have different ways of learning - whether it is reading lots of theory, trying something out ourselves, or just talking it through with classmates. There are the run of the mill ways for teachers to keep us engaged, but then there are those who think that little bit more creatively, and use different methods to bring their subject to life.

Perhaps they have introduced a practical element to a very dense theory, or taken you outside of the University environment to bring something to life. Perhaps they just have a really different style of presenting – whatever it is, it's new, inventive and helps you to learn.

This category will also recognise all the other elements of excellent teaching: we want to hear examples of innovative feedback techniques, or how online learning has been utilised through BBLearn. Perhaps this teacher has a great way of organising the course to make sure it all runs smoothly.

Give us examples of how they help you learn – and make sure they get the recognition they deserve!

There is an award for the best nominee from each of the Ulster University faculties.

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- New and innovative teaching techniques on your course;
- Assessment methods and feedback techniques that help you and others to learn and improve as students;
- How their style of teaching has improved your learning experience;
- Ways in which they engage students in their learning environment and beyond.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Teaching: Postgraduate Teacher/Demonstrator

Any registered PhD student who, while undertaking their own study, has also actively and exceptionally contributed to other students' education as a module assistant, seminar leader or demonstrator. This nominee will have all of the traits of an excellent teacher – innovative learning styles, or feedback techniques for example.

They will stand out however because they are relatively new to the profession of teaching, and will be carrying this role out alongside of their PhD studies.

The criterion for this award is the same as Excellence in Teaching:

- New and innovative teaching techniques on your course;
- Assessment methods and feedback techniques that help you and others to learn and improve as students;
- How their style of teaching has improved your learning experience;
- Ways in which they engage students in their learning environment and beyond.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Research Supervision

Whether you are an undergraduate doing a piece of research as part of your degree, or a post-doctoral candidate who is carrying out research for the majority of your time, having an excellent supervisor can really make the difference for you.

Your supervisor will have been there for you to guide you in the right direction, without leading too much and taking you in a different direction from the one which you set yourself.

Tell us what it is that sets them apart, and how they have helped you to reach your goals.

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- How they have inspired your research;
- How they have supported you throughout your research, and what you feel is outstanding about this;
- How they have encouraged you to reach your goals, and even exceed them!
- Made you feel part of a research community at Ulster, and possibly beyond.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: Excellence in Placement / Employability Support

We all come to University with one common aim: to secure employment in whatever field we have chosen, whether that's in the business world, academia, as a health professional or something completely unique to you! This member of staff will have helped you to develop into a graduate that not only has the knowledge required, but has the extra skills to make you stand out and also has helped you to articulate these.

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- An event, programme or placement that this person has provided for you/other students;
- Ongoing support and guidance they have provided;
- Innovative ways they may have embedded employability support into the curriculum and your course.

This list is by no means exhaustive – but will be used as shortlisting the nominations!

Category: The Partnership Award

Nominations are welcome from students and staff in this category

This award recognises and celebrates successful collaborations between staff and students. This could be a project in the classroom contributing to academic research, or could be a project which is outside the class room in a community project. Or maybe there has been a collaboration to improve the student experience? You tell us!

When completing your nomination form, remember to give us examples and evidence of:

- How this collaboration has enhanced the student experience or impacted on the wider community.
- How the group have worked to build a positive partnership for all involved.

Category: Inspirational Teacher of the Year Award

This person exemplifies all of the other awards rolled into one. They have that something extra that helps you to understand the most difficult of subjects, but they also take the time to support you outside of class time. Their feedback helps you to develop your learning, and they are organised and enthusiastic in all aspects of their teaching.

Tell us how and why they have inspired you, this is your chance to make sure they know the difference they have made to you. It is difficult to put into bullet points what it is that makes this person stand out – just make sure that you give **examples** and **evidence** of how they have inspired you/other students.

Things like:

- What is so different about their teaching style that makes them stand out?
- Have they brought something new to your course?
- How have they created a sense of community amongst your course?

Tell **how** they make you feel inspired, and our panel will judge based on the evidence!