**DISTINGUISHED EDUCATION EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

**Category: Early Career Educator Award**

**WHAT IS IT FOR?**

The **Early Career Educator Award** is awarded to individuals who have been teaching/supporting learning in HE for **four years or less** and can demonstrate an outstanding contribution to learning, teaching and/or assessment practice within the University. In particular, the individual’s contribution will be directly related to one or more of the Educational Excellence themes and priorities within ***five& fifty*** and will focus on an initiative that demonstrates effective problem solving, enhancement, or innovation in L&T.

The purpose of the award is to recognise, reward and celebrate our **Early Career Educators** in teaching/ supporting learning excellence and to create a proactive learning community within Ulster.

**Up to four awards** are normally available and the award of **£800** to successful applicants should be used to support the recipients’ CPD in learning and teaching.

**Early Career Educator Award** recipients will be expected to share their experience and practice with colleagues at Ulster supported by CHERP.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

* Any member of staff who teaches or supports learning at Ulster University and has been teaching/ supporting learning in HE for four years or fewer.
* Applicants should have achieved FHEA at the time of making their application.

**HOW TO APPLY?**

Applicants should provide a 2000 word Reflective Statement and Case Study on their particular contribution to excellence in teaching/ learning support through an innovation which has had a transformative effect on student learning (see pro forma on CHERP site).

Submissions should be endorsed by the applicant’s Line Manager to confirm the veracity of the claims made within the application.

**HOW IS THE AWARD JUDGED?**

The award scheme is judged by a panel including the Dean of Learning Enhancement, representative Associate Dean(s) Education, representatives of CHERP, the Awards’ Manager, representative University National Teaching Fellow and the President of UUSU.

**Criteria**

The Assessment Panel will be looking for the following; applicants should:

* Show evidence of an initiative that demonstrates effective problem solving, enhancement, or innovation in L&T that aligns to themes and priorities within ***five& fifty***
* Support the claim with independent evidence, such as testimonials (particularly from students), supporting data and/or evidence of effectiveness and impact – (evidence should be integrated throughout the claim and contributes to the word count.)
* Demonstrate clearly how the initiative goes beyond that which would be expected of a ‘good teacher’ and adds something novel, enhancing, or innovative to teaching/ supporting learning in their area.
* Be underpinned by some reference to the professional knowledge base in HE academic practice as evidence of scholarship in learning and teaching.
* Include reflection on or evidence of how their intervention has begun to have impact within the broader learning community that is beyond the applicant’s own classroom/teaching.

**WHEN TO APPLY?**

Applications should be received by noon **September 1st 2021**

Submission as a single PDF File to [s.floyd@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:s.floyd@ulster.ac.uk) with the subject line: Early Career Educator Award

**Application Pro-forma – complete Section B&C in no more than 2000 words in total, supporting evidence must be included within the text. No additional appendices should be included.**

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| **Section A: Contact details** |
| **Name (including title):** |
| **School/Department:** |
| **Email Address:** |
| **Number of years teaching/ supporting learning in higher education:** |
| **Summary of Teaching/Supporting Roles and Responsibilities:** |
| **Which Category of HEA fellowship do you hold?**  **Reference Number (on your certificate):** |
| **Line Manager Endorsement**  *I fully endorse the validity of the claims made in the application for* **Distinguished Education Excellence Awards** *(***Early Career Educator** *category)*  **E-Signed** ……………………………………………………………………………  **Name:**  **Position**:  **Contact:** |
| **Complete Section B&C in no more than 2000 words in total** |
| **Section B: Your Teaching/ Learning Support Approach:** |
| *Please provide a brief reflection on your overall approach to enhancing the student learning experience (no more than 200 words) e.g. a reflection on your values and beliefs in relation to the work you do; what has influenced you in your practice; your beliefs about your role in enhancing the student learning experience?* |
| **Section C: Case Study** |
| **Title:** *meaningful, short descriptive title (to be used in publicity)*  **Summary:** *Brief summary of what the case study covers*.  **Keywords:** *(list 3 key words that reflect the focus of the case study)* |
| **What was done:**  *Please give a brief description of the case study including the* themes and priorities within ***five& fifty*** *it relates to.*  *Explain why you feel this is an example of novel, enhancing, or innovative* *practice.* |
| **Motivation and aims:**  *A brief outline of the reasons behind the practice described - its purpose and benefits. What change was it intended to make or problem was it designed to solve? What professional knowledge did you draw from to underpin your rationale?* |
| **Implementation:**  *An outline of how you carried out the initiative, the approaches you adopted. What professional knowledge did you draw from to underpin your approach?* |
| **Successes and lessons learnt:**  *Reflect on what worked well, any particular challenges faced and how these were addressed. Comment on the approach taken to evaluation and understanding the impact and effectiveness of the practice described. What did students think about your approach? Include evidence to support your understanding of its effectiveness.*  *Please also say if you are planning any changes or further developments.* |
| **Transferability:**  *Is this practice transferable? Have you shared your experiences with colleagues? What would your advice be to others thinking of adopting your approach? Do you have any evidence of colleagues adopting your approach?* |
| **Further information:**  *e.g. links to website or publications* |