Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning
Nomination Information

Awards for Programs that Enhance Learning recognise learning and teaching support programs and services that make an outstanding contribution to the quality of student learning and the quality of the student experience at Curtin University. The programs and services that receive Program Awards must have demonstrated their effectiveness through rigorous evaluation and will set benchmarks for similar activities in other faculties, schools, units and higher education institutions.

Categories

There are six Program Award categories, as follows:

1. **Widening participation, encompassing approaches to learning and teaching, and/or student experience which enhance** student access, widen participation, and support progression.

2. **Educational partnerships and collaborations with other organisations**, encompassing partnerships between universities, and universities and other organisations—such as schools, private higher education providers, registered training organisations, professional bodies, businesses and industries in collaborative approaches to learning and teaching.

3. **Innovation and flexibility in curricula, learning and teaching**, encompassing approaches to learning and teaching that afford flexibility in time, place and/or mode of learning and innovations that encourage novel approaches to learning and teaching, innovations that align assessment with curriculum design, innovations that encourage or support multidisciplinary, research-based learning and teaching approaches, innovations that utilise the potential of new and/or emerging technologies.

4. **Postgraduate education**, encompassing programs and other activities that focus on postgraduate students, postgraduate coursework learning and teaching, postgraduate research supervision and research higher degree candidature and postgraduate learning support.

5. **Student experiences and services supporting learning, development and growth in higher education**, encompassing services directly related to student learning such as services for specific groups of students, information access, course advising, language and learning support, counselling and disability support. Quality of learning engagement and other learning and teaching experiences within large student groups to sustain and retain students, student enhancement, whole personal development learning and the quality of the first-year student experience.

6. **Global citizenship and internationalisation**, including valuing and enhancing the international student experience, student exchange, international recruitment, transition programs for international students and internationalising the curriculum.

It is anticipated that Program Awards will be distributed across the six categories, although the pattern of distribution will ultimately be determined by the quality of nominations (i.e. there is no set number of awards for each category).
Eligibility for Nomination

1. Nomination is open to all programs and services that enhance student learning. It is intended that eligible programs are broader than one or two subjects or a limited service that involves only a few students. For example, programs may involve a service or program provided at the University, faculty or school level, a program of study across a year or number of years, or a service or program directed at particular groups of students.

2. Previous recipient programs are ineligible for renomination.

3. Teams may be of any size. If a team is larger than five members, a team name should be given.

Selection Criteria

All nominations for Program Awards will be assessed on the evidence they provide in relation to the following four criteria, which will be given equal consideration by the Curtin EIT Awards Committee:

1. **Distinctiveness, coherence and clarity of purpose** - Extent to which the program has clear objectives and systematic approaches to coordination, implementation and evaluation

2. **Influence on student learning and the student experience** - Extent to which the program targets identified needs and directly or indirectly, enhances student learning, student engagement and/or the overall student experience of higher education.

3. **Breadth of impact** - Extent to which the program has led to widespread benefits for students, staff, the institution, and/or other institutions, consistent with the purpose of the program

4. **Addressing equity and diversity** - Extent to which the program promotes and supports equity and inclusiveness by improving access, participation and outcomes for diverse student groups.

In assessing nominations against the four selection criteria, the assessors and the Committee will take into account:

1. evidence of the effectiveness of the program in formal and informal evaluation;
2. the degree of creativity, imagination or innovation;
3. evidence of the sustained effectiveness of the program for more than two years.

Application Process

Each nominee must submit the following documents:

1. **Nomination form** (provided)

2. **Written statement**, including a synopsis, overview and discussion addressing each of the selection criteria (limited to ten A4 pages)

3. Statement of team contribution (if applicable)

4. Two references (limited to one A4 page each)

1. **Nomination form**
The completed nomination form must be signed by the nominee and the nominee’s Head of School.

2. **Written statement**
The core element of a nomination for a Program Award is a written statement describing the program, specifically addressing each of the four selection criteria. The written statement should be presented, in order, under the following headings:

2016 EITA Program Guidelines
1. Synopsis (150-200 words, in third person)

2. Overview of the program and its context

3. Statement addressing the assessment criteria and providing supporting evidence

The synopsis must cover a description of the program and its teaching areas, the program’s contribution to student learning and engagement, and the program’s impact on students. The synopsis must be written in the third person and is a requirement of the nomination. The word limit is strictly 150-200 words. Should the nomination be successful, the synopsis will be used in communications regarding the recipient’s success.

The remainder of the written statement should be devoted to addressing the category of nomination and each of the four criteria in turn. Evidence in support of the claims against these criteria must be provided. The views of students, collaborators and/or colleagues, as appropriate, will be a key element in the assessment of nominations.

The written statement is limited to 10 A4 pages in total (minimum 11 point font, Arial or Calibri) and should include all information that might be referred to in the submission. All pages in excess of 10 will be removed.

3. Statement of contribution (for team nominations)

Team nominations must include an additional page which explains the role and indicates the percentage contribution of team members.

4. References

Two references, of no more than one A4 page each, are to be provided by those able to comment on the nominee’s teaching performance against the selection criteria. One referee must be the head of the nominee’s faculty, school, department, or their line manager. Nominees are encouraged to provide a referee external to the nominee’s institution, and who can comment on the wider impact of the program. If the nomination relates to a team, the references should apply to the team. The references must be signed by the referee. Electronic signatures on references supplied by the referee to the nominee by email are acceptable. Only the first page of a reference that exceeds the one page limit will be provided to the Curtin EIT Awards Committee.

Presentation Requirements

There is no advantage in elaborate presentation of nominations. The nomination form (provided) is adequate as a cover page. Do not staple the application.

- Paper should be A4 plain white.
- Margins should be at least 2 cm with clear paragraph definition.
- The minimum acceptable font size is 11 point in Arial or Calibri.

No supplementary materials should be included. Photos, pictures, tables or figures should fit within the 10-page statement limit. Excess pages will be removed before the application is forwarded to the EIT Awards Committee.

Submission

By 5.00 pm on Wednesday 28 September, 2016 please submit: a) one complete application in hard copy (signed nomination form, 10-page statement, statement of team contribution and two references, no staples please) to the EIT Awards Officer, Linda Lilly, Curtin Learning and Teaching, Building 105 Level 1, Bentley Campus and b) a Word version of your application by email to Awards_and_Grants@curtin.edu.au (pdf not accepted).