



Centre for University Teaching  
and Learning (CUTL)

**2021**

**THE VICE CHANCELLOR TEACHING  
AND LEARNING EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS**

[www.smu.ac.za](http://www.smu.ac.za)

## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS AND NOMINATIONS

The Centre for University Teaching and Learning is pleased to call on individuals to **apply** for the annual Excellence in Teaching and Learning Awards for 2021. Schools, Departments, as well as individuals (including lecturers and students), may also **nominate** individuals based on performance for these awards.

### Aim of the Excellence in Teaching and Learning awards

- To show support at an institutional level for excellence in teaching and learning in SMU;
- To generate a cadre of University Teachers who are identifiable and able to provide inspiration and leadership in teaching in their disciplines, and to be recognized in their Departments, Schools and at a national level;
- To generate debate and institutional awareness on what constitutes teaching excellence.

There are three categories, as follows:

1. The Vice Chancellor's **Emerging** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award,
2. The Vice Chancellor's **Seasoned** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award, and
3. The Vice Chancellor's **Distinguished** Teaching and Learning Award

### Value of awards:

1. The Vice Chancellor's Emerging Teaching and Learning Excellence Award – **R20 000\***; **two** winners will be selected
2. The Vice Chancellor's Seasoned Teaching and Learning Excellence Award - **R30 000\***; **two** winners will be selected
3. The Vice Chancellor's distinguished Teaching and Learning Award – **R50 000\***; **one** winner will be selected from the applicants for category 2.

The winners will receive their certificates and awards at the 2021 Vice-Chancellors Excellence awards ceremony that will take place on 19 November 2021.

\* The total amount awarded will be subject to statutory deductions even if transferred into a research account.

Please find below more detail regarding these categories:

### **The Vice Chancellor's Emerging Teaching and Learning Excellence Award**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this award is to promote scholarly teaching and teaching-related activities, and to recognize a relatively new lecturer who is an exceptional teacher in his/her discipline.

#### **Eligibility**

The Vice Chancellor's **Emerging** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award is open to University Teachers with ten or fewer years' experience of teaching in higher education. Nominees or prospective applicants need to have been in contract or permanent employment at SMU for at least twelve months prior to nomination.

#### **Criteria**

In addition to evidence of inspiring and enthusiastic teaching, the Committee evaluating nominees or applicants for the award will use the following criteria, which are not seen to be either exclusive or exhaustive, as guidelines.

#### **Learning facilitation**

The nominee or applicant provides evidence of teaching practice which:

- creatively and effectively addresses the challenges of diversity in terms of students' socio-cultural and linguistic backgrounds and learning styles;
- uses a wide range of teaching methods appropriate to the discipline (including, but not limited to the use of technology);
- demonstrates mastery of disciplinary knowledge and of the way research in her/his discipline can inform teaching;

- where appropriate incorporate interaction with students into his/her teaching on a regular basis by, for example, instigating question and answer sessions and/or discussions in class;
- provides opportunities for students to learn how knowledge is constructed in the discipline;
- encourages and supports students to be autonomous.

### **Curriculum & assessment**

The nominee or applicant provides evidence of course design which:

- is relevant to and up-to-date with local, international and disciplinary contexts;
- creatively and effectively responds to the diverse needs of a diverse student body;
- is internally aligned with respect to purpose, outcomes, teaching & learning activities, assessment methods and criteria;
- includes assessment activities aimed at enhancing student learning (including constructive and developmental feedback) and which are accountable and transparent
- incorporates assessment as an integral part of the teaching and learning process.

### **Critical reflection**

The nominee or applicant:

- collects evidence from a variety of sources in order to evaluate his/her teaching and course design;
- provides evidence of using information from evaluation to promote critical reflection on his/her teaching;
- articulates clearly the link between teaching and research in his/her discipline.

Evidence for having met the criteria for the award could be collected from a range of teaching across year levels and subject specialties.

### **The Vice Chancellor's Seasoned Teaching and Learning Excellence Award**

#### **Purpose**

The purpose of this award is to stimulate scholarly teaching and teaching related-activities, and to recognize an experienced lecturer who is an exceptional teacher in his/her discipline.

## Eligibility

The Vice Chancellor's Seasoned Teaching and Learning Excellence Award is open to University Teachers with more than ten years' experience of teaching in higher education. Nominees or prospective applicants need to have been in contract or permanent employment at SMU for at least twelve months prior to nomination.

## Criteria

The criteria for the award are the same as those for the Vice Chancellor's **Emerging** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award. However, in addition, a candidate needs to provide evidence that he/she:

- has been innovative in his/her teaching and has made significant contributions to teaching materials, teaching methods or the assessment of student learning in his/her discipline;
- has met the criteria at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and across a range of subject specialties;
- has taught in ways which have made a long term impact on students;
- is concerned to advance the principles of good teaching within disciplinary communities and in the university more generally
- has submitted articles for publications on any teaching and learning aspects

## The Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Teaching and Learning Excellence Award

### Purpose

The purpose of this award is to recognize outstanding scholarly teaching and teaching related-activities, and to recognize a distinguished lecturer who is an exceptional teacher and leader in his/her discipline.

### Eligibility

The Vice Chancellor's **Distinguished** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award will be selected from the applicants of the Vice Chancellor's **Seasoned** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award.

## Criteria

The criteria for this award are the same as those for the Vice Chancellor's **Seasoned** Teaching and Learning Excellence Award. However, in addition, a candidate needs to provide evidence that he/she:

- Demonstrate skills in leadership in Higher Education
- Demonstrate skills in leadership in his/her discipline, self-reflection and mentoring
- Demonstrate mentorship in his/her discipline and/or Higher Education.

## How to apply:

1. Complete the attached *Application Form*.
2. The relevant School Dean must sign the application form.
3. Send the following to [tdu.applications@smu.ac.za](mailto:tdu.applications@smu.ac.za) on or before of **13 August 2021**:
  - Completed application form
  - Short CV (2 pages)
  - Copy of your ID
4. You have to attend the support programme offered by CUTL on the development of your teaching portfolio. You will receive important information regarding the structure and content of your teaching portfolio. **CUTL will also assist you with the compiling of your teaching portfolio.**
5. Submit your teaching portfolio in which evidence of how you meet the criteria for the award is provided, together with a **detailed** CV before or on the due date of **30 September 2021** to, [tdu.applications@smu.ac.za](mailto:tdu.applications@smu.ac.za) and copy [elize.venter@smu.ac.za](mailto:elize.venter@smu.ac.za)

## How to nominate a candidate:

1. Complete the attached *Nomination Form* – Section A.
2. The relevant School Dean must sign the nomination form.
3. Request the nominee to complete the form "Nominations – Section B".
4. Send the following to [tdu.applications@smu.ac.za](mailto:tdu.applications@smu.ac.za) on or before of **13 August 2021**:
  - Completed nomination form
  - Short CV (2 pages) of nominee
  - Copy of the nominee's ID

5. You have to attend the support programme offered by CUTL on the development of your teaching portfolio. You will receive important information regarding the structure and content of your teaching portfolio. CUTL will also assist you with the compiling of your teaching portfolio.
6. The nominee has to submit his/her teaching portfolio in which evidence of how he/she meet the criteria for the award is provided, together with a **detailed** CV before or on the due date of **30 September 2021**.

#### **Consideration of applications for all three awards**

A Teaching Excellence Award Committee representative will:

- attend a lecture by the applicant/nominee
- assess his/her teaching portfolio
- interview the applicant/nominee

The Teaching Excellence Award Committee will select the award winners.

***No incomplete applications will be considered.***

#### **Closing dates**

- Submission of Application & Nomination forms, short CV and ID document:  
**13 August 2021**
- Submission of Teaching Portfolios and detailed CV's:  
**30 September 2021**

E-mail address for submission of the above mentioned: [tdu.applications@smu.ac.za](mailto:tdu.applications@smu.ac.za)

Please contact Dr Elize Venter if you require more information: [elize.venter@smu.ac.za](mailto:elize.venter@smu.ac.za)



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